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Trident-2 explodes in flight

CAPE CANAVERAL (R) — An unarmed Trident-2 missile exploded in flight Tuesday afternoon after it was fired from a submerged U.S. submarine off Cape Canaveral in the weapon's first test at sea, a military spokesman said. The three-stage missile exploded four seconds after launch from the nuclear submarine USS Tennessee, said Anne McCauley, a spokeswoman at Patrick Air Force Base near here. The missile has been test-fired 19 times on land and was scheduled for at least nine tests at sea before becoming operational. "It self-destructed. The exact cause of the malfunction can't be determined until telemetry data is studied," McCauley said. The missile had cleared the water about 75 kilometres east of Cape Canaveral by the time of the explosion and did not threaten the submerged submarine, she said. The U.S. Navy plans to begin deploying the Trident-2 in December. British nuclear submarines are also scheduled to eventually carry the long-range ballistic missile, defence officials say. The Trident-2, which carried a load of dummy warheads during the test, will be among the most powerful and accurate nuclear weapons ever developed, officials said.

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Al Hussein attends celebration marking Battle of Karameh

KARAMEH (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday attended the major celebration held at the Martyr's Monument in Shouneh to mark the Karameh Battle. The celebration was attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Armed Forces Inspector General and senior Armed Forces officers. On the occasion, Abu Taleb sent a congratulatory cable to King Hussein in which he voiced the Jordanian Armed Forces' pride in his wise leadership and pledged their allegiance and loyalty to the Hashemite throne.

Abu Taleb also attended the celebration held at the Yarmouk University to mark the Karameh Battle.

He delegated his assistant to attend the cross-country race, organised by the Yarmouk University and Jordan University of Science and Technology.

The race started from the city of Karamah and ended at the Martyr's Monument in South Shouneh.

Similar celebrations were held in various parts of the country. The Ministry of Education schools in Amman, Balqa, Zarqa and Ma'an held special celebra-



His Majesty King Hussein, accompanied by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and high ranking officers, Tuesday arrives to attend the celebrations on the occasion of the anniversary of the Karamah Battle.

tions, during which speeches, outlining the importance of this event, were delivered. Also on this occasion, folkloric dances performed and a number of exhibitions, containing items describing the importance of this battle, were held.

Mine blast kills 3 UNIFIL soldiers

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Three Irish U.N. peacekeeping soldiers were killed Tuesday when their vehicle ran over a landmine in South Lebanon, an Irish officer said.

He said they were killed near the village of Brashiet on the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone."

This brought to 30 the number of Irish soldiers killed since the nine-nation U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) deployed in South Lebanon in 1978.

A 22-year-old Irish soldier was shot dead by militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia Feb. 24.

In occupied Jerusalem, a U.N. official at headquarters in Naqura told Reuters by telephone the soldiers drove their truck over the mine while on a routine patrol.

"We don't know who planted the mine or why. We have sent out a team to investigate," said Patrick Keogh, operations officer for UNIFIL.

He said two of the soldiers died immediately and a third was pronounced dead on arrival at a U.N. hospital.

The Irish officer in South Lebanon, who refused to be identified, said: "The Irish soldiers were targeted in this ambush. Israeli soldiers and their local militiamen of the South Lebanon Army do not pass on this road."

Brashiet is a transit route for commanders who sneak into the security zone to attack Israeli and SLA forces.

At least 18 dead in Brazil plane crash

SAO PAULO (R) — At least 18 people were killed when a Boeing 707 cargo plane exploded in mid-air Tuesday and crashed into a slum near Sao Paulo International Airport, an airport official said.

There were unconfirmed reports that dozens of slum dwellers, perhaps as many as 100, were injured in the crash.

Television reports said at least 50 people were being treated, mainly for burns, at nearby hospitals.

Airport spokeswoman Lucia Ferreira told Reuters the plane's three crew members and at least seven people on the ground were killed in the crash.

The Transbrasil plane had radioed the control tower requesting an emergency landing before it exploded, she said.

The plane was on a flight from the Amazon city of Manaus to Sao Paulo.

Ferreira said she had no information as to why the pilot had requested an emergency landing. Visibility at the time of the crash — just before noon local (1500 GMT) — was perfect.

King Hussein visits army HQ

His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Tuesday called at the Armed Forces Headquarters where he met for a while with the Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb and his aides. King Hussein discussed with Abu Taleb issues of interest to the Armed Forces. Abu Taleb's assistants, commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the Armed Forces Inspector General attended part of the meeting.

Artillery and rocket fire puts east Beirut area under siege

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese opposition forces traded artillery and rocket fire with Falangist gunners Tuesday after imposing a siege on their sectarian foes.

Security sources said at least five people were killed and five wounded in west Beirut by the latest round of artillery duels which have raged in and around the city for two weeks.

Local radios said fighting erupted along the "green line" separating west Beirut from the east and shells and rockets fell on residential areas in both sectors.

Falangist radios said 10 shells fell on Beirut Port in the eastern sector and others hit the coastal highway running from east Beirut to Falangist areas in the north.

The security sources said the shelling of the coastal highway caused a car accident in which three people were killed and two injured. They said another four people were wounded in east Beirut.

The thunder of artillery rocked the city as residents ran to shelters. Ambulances raced through the deserted streets to rescue casualties.

Falangist leaders accused Syria of ordering a blockade of their territory which cut supply routes for food and fuel.

Security sources said roads to the Falangist enclave — east Beirut and the hills and coastal district north of it — were shut, leaving it with Jounieh Port as its only link with the outside world.

Jounieh itself has been hit in the past week by shelling.

"All the crossings were shut by a decision from the Syrian occupying force," said a military spokesman in east Beirut. He said the action was in line with attempts to partition Lebanon into sectarian mini-states.

Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, has about 25,000 troops in the country.

Lebanon's Falangist and opposition sectors are heavily interdependent for basic commod-

ities, most carried by truck.

The Falangist army supplies west Beirut with flour, petrol and cooking gas while opposition areas provide east Beirut with fruit and vegetables.

The first people affected were thousands of commuters who normally cross the "green line" battle zone, dividing the capital every day.

Political sources said the opposition forces were retaliating against a sea and air blockade imposed by army commander Major-General Michel Aoun on illegal ports serving militia fiefdoms earlier this month.

Aoun heads a military government set up in September when rivalry between pro- and anti-Syrian groups prevented election of a successor to outgoing President Amin Gemayel.

The civilian cabinet led by Sunni Muslim Salim Hoss refused to step down, leaving Lebanon with

two opposed governments.

Lebanese, prey to indiscriminate violence for the past 14 years, stayed indoors in case of fresh fighting broke out.

Few people have reported for work since last Tuesday when rival forces fought their fiercest battles for two years, killing 43 people and wounding 150.

The opposition army command under Major-General Sami Al Khatib, said its troops closed the Museum Crossing between the two sectors of the capital for "security reasons."

Kuwait's ambassador in Damascus, Ahmad Abdul Aziz Al Jassem, held talks with rival leaders Monday and Tuesday in an attempt to defuse the crisis.

Jassem carries invitations for former presidents and prime ministers to attend a Tunis meeting with an Arab League committee trying to resolve Lebanon's constitutional crisis.



A Lebanese fills a garbage bag with the debris of his shelled home in west Beirut after the latest artillery and rocket fire by rival factions in the 14-year-old civil war.

4 Palestinians injured in West Bank protests

Israelis clamp curfew in Gaza

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops in occupied Gaza City clamped a curfew on some 7,000 residents Tuesday, cut off water and electricity, and threatened stiffer measures if a missing army rifle was not returned.

An automatic rifle was lost Monday night when two army reservists were injured during clashes with stone-throwers in the city's Rimal district. Military authorities are convinced Palestinians took the gun.

Residents said the curfew on Rimal and part of the Sabra district took effect Tuesday morning after troops ordered all males aged from nine to 60 years to military headquarters and warned them of harsh consequences if the gun was not returned.

A curfew placed on the Gaza Strip's Khan Yunis Refugee Camp when a weapon was lost there last Wednesday remained in force, and local leaders said army officers told them the gun would have to be produced before the curfew was lifted.

The army had no immediate comment on the reports. A Palestinian source in Gaza said the apparent theft of the rifles should not be seen as a sign

that Arab protesters were preparing to escalate their armed attacks against Israeli targets but rather as acts of bravado by youthful protesters.

"If the opportunity presents itself they'll take whatever they can as a trophy, to show how close they got to the army. They take helmets, batons and on these occasions guns," he said.

More than half the strip's 650,000 Arab residents were confined to their homes Tuesday by curfews imposed during earlier unrest.

Arab protesters have repeatedly clashed with troops and paramilitary border police since a lull in the violence was shattered Saturday with the killing of three Arab protesters at a Gaza City mosque.

The killings prompted a three-day general strike in the occupied territory and a wave of protest in which two more residents of the Gaza Strip were shot dead.

The commander of the army unit involved in the mosque shootings was removed from his post.

Troops Tuesday shot and wounded the brother of one of those killed Saturday. Medical staff at Gaza City's Sifa Hospital said the man, Riad Al Sharif, was in serious condition with gunshot wounds to the head and stomach.

Israel Radio said soldiers shot him when he attacked them with an axe. The army was checking the reports.

At least 409 Palestinians and 16 Israelis have died in the 15-month-old Arab uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Witnesses reported unrest throughout the Strip with blazing tyres and rocks barricading roads in almost all populated areas.

In the West Bank, troops shot and wounded an Arab protester in the village of Sa'id and injured three residents of the Al-Amari Palestinian refugee camp, the youngest 12 years old, Palestinian sources said.

In neighbouring Ramallah, Jewish settlers marked the annual festival of Purim by shouting anti-Arab slogans as they paraded through the town.

Border police in East Jerusalem's busy Salahuddin Street

fired tear gas at Palestinian schoolgirls who stoned a passing Israeli bus and arrested 12 girls. Another 40 girls were released after questioning, the police said.

In the Tel Aviv suburb of Petah Tikvah a bomb exploded near a hospital and police experts defused a second device found at the same spot. No one was injured, police said.

Israeli stabbed in Tel Aviv

In Tel Aviv, a Palestinian from the occupied Gaza Strip stabbed an Israeli doctor to death in central Tel Aviv Tuesday and wounded two other men before police shot and captured him.

Police at the scene said Abdul Rahman Zabut Ibn Mohammad, 28, had a criminal record for burglaries in the Tel Aviv area but they believed the attacks had a Palestinian nationalist motive.

"We presume it was politically motivated and premeditated because he had two knives on him," one detective said. "He earlier tried to gain entrance to a commercial office and a flat but fortunately the occupants refused to open."

Police identified the dead man as Dr. Kurt Moshe Shalinger, 73, of Tel Aviv.

Bush to meet Mideast leaders

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush will explore Middle East peace prospects in White House talks with the leaders of Egypt and Israel over the next six weeks, the White House said Tuesday.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will meet Bush on April 3 and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir will meet him on April 6.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Bush would seek the views of the leaders on the best way to advance the peace process and made clear Bush would not unveil a new American initiative at that time.

"We are confident that the forthcoming visits will materially contribute to diplomatic progress toward peace in the Middle East," Fitzwater said.

"The president is committed to moving the peace process forward and anticipates a useful exchange of views with key regional leaders... He's not presenting a new initiative."

Fitzwater noted that Bush held discussions with Mubarak and His Majesty King Hussein in Tokyo last month when the three were there for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. Israeli President Chaim Herzog also had talks with Bush at that time.

U.S. officials have been urging Israel, its Arab neighbours and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to engage in a variety of small tension-easing steps in a bid to improve the climate for peace talks.

Among the steps urged by Washington in private talks would be the release of Palestinian political prisoners held by Israel, and a reduction in PLO attacks on Israeli military positions.

Fitzwater said Bush was likely to urge similar gestures in his talks, but his major purpose was to hear the views of the Middle East leaders.

"I would expect the president to discuss with these leaders the feelings in their countries about what progress can be made and what course should be taken. That (the discussions) undoubtedly will include an international conference, the role of the Palestinians," Fitzwater said.

He declined to say whether Bush would urge Shamir to reconsider his refusal to hold talks with the PLO.

"At this point we simply want to meet with Prime Minister Shamir and talk about the situation and see what his feelings are. We wouldn't try to predict any conclusions at this point... I simply don't want to speculate," Fitzwater said.

PLO sees greatly improved atmosphere for talks with U.S.

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), preparing for a second round of talks with the United States Wednesday, says it sees a greatly improved atmosphere after Washington's latest moves in the Middle East.

The PLO, confident that a dispute over terrorism is out of the way, will concentrate on persuading Washington to put its weight behind plans to hold an international conference on Middle East peace, spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said Tuesday.

"There has been a significant change in the U.S. position and the atmosphere is much better... there are no controversial issues between us and the Americans," he told Reuters.

The PLO and Washington were in agreement on the idea of peace through Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, while Israel stood alone in opposing this, he said.

On the shift in U.S. policy, he cited Secretary of State James Baker's recent statement that Israel might have to talk to the PLO and his refusal to accept Israel's point of view on Palestinian raids from South Lebanon.

"This is progress and we welcome it," he added.

Israel said the raids violated PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's pledge to renounce "terrorism" and asked Washington to break off dialogue with the PLO. Arafat's pledge, made in Geneva last December, was one of the U.S. conditions for starting the talks.

Abdul Rahman said the meeting Wednesday, which ends a three-month break in the dialogue while the new Bush administration settled into office, should move on to discuss practical steps towards a rapid settlement.

"We will brief the Americans on our scenario — a preparatory committee (for the conference), the role of the U.N. Security Council, Israeli withdrawal and the role of U.N. forces during the interim period," he said.

Israel rejects the international conference idea and the United States, afraid it might have to defend Israel alone in such a forum, says it prefers direct negotiations.

After the first PLO-U.S. meeting in Tunis in December, the preference for a conference or direct talks was the main difference in public statements by the two delegation heads — U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau and PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

The PLO, apparently swept along by events, has since modified its position, and Abdul Rahman said the organisation welcomed informal contacts with Israelis, including members of the government, ahead of the conference.

Some Palestinian leaders have gone further, saying these contacts could negotiate a settlement and the conference need only provide U.N. guarantees for an eventual treaty.

The spokesman said the PLO would reject any U.S. request to tone down the intifada in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The PLO sees the 15-month-old uprising as its only weapon to keep up the pressure for a change in Israeli policy.

"There can be no discussion of

the intifada until Israel agrees to withdraw and accepts the Palestinian right to self-determination and statehood," he said.

U.S. officials have said they would put such a request to the PLO, in parallel with a request to Israel to improve the atmosphere in the occupied territories by reopening schools, releasing prisoners and limited detentions without trial.

Abdul Rahman said the PLO was treating the meeting as part of preparations for Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's visit to Washington next month, which the PLO hopes will turn into a showdown between the United States and Israel.

"(President) Bush has said the Israelis should provide a peace plan, so the pressure's on Shamir. He has less and less room for manoeuvre, he's on the defensive and isolated," he said.

The PLO has trimmed back its team in the talks from four men to three, dropping Executive Committee member Abdallah Hourani. The other two are PLO representative in Tunis Hakam Balawi and the director general of the PLO Political Department, Abdul Latif Abu Hijleh, usually known as Abu Jaafar.

Pelletreau, designated by the State Department as the sole channel for communications with the PLO, will be accompanied by embassy political officer Edmund Hull.

The Tunisian hosts, for security reasons, have not yet said where the talks will take place. The first round was held in a government guesthouse in the northern suburb of Carthage.

Officials confirm intelligence study says Israel must talk to PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Officials Tuesday confirmed an Israeli intelligence report presented to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government that concluded there were no Palestinians who could negotiate peace with Israel other than the PLO.

The assessment by army and other intelligence branches also said the 15-month-old Palestinian uprising could go on indefinitely unless such a political solution to the Palestinian problem is reached, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The officials said the assessment also saw a possibility of the rebellion becoming more violent, with the use of weapons by Palestinians who have relied so far on stones and firebombs.

The comments by several government sources follow accounts in Israeli newspapers, saying the new intelligence report judges the PLO has undergone a substantive change and wants "a realistic political settlement."

Presented to both the cabinet and parliament's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, the intelligence report predicted the United States would maintain its dialogue with the PLO despite pressure from Israel to halt the talks, the officials told the Associated Press.

Shamir angrily denied Tuesday that an intelligence report to the cabinet said Israel had no choice but to talk to the PLO.

"All was a lie. All included in this information was a lie," Shamir said of near-identical reports in all leading Israeli newspapers.

Publication of the report stirred accusations from right wing supporters of Shamir that it had been leaked by the rival Labour Party faction of the government.

Speaking before a conference of world Jewish leaders here Monday, Shamir repeated his refusal to talk to the PLO. But at the same time, a Labour Party leader, Yossi Beilin, called on the government to consider talking to the PLO and suggested Labour

should quit the coalition unless talks took place.

Tuesday, Shamir told the meeting of 1,100 Jews from 30 countries that his government was trying to find other Arabs to join in peace talks.

"We have not slackened our search for more partners for peace. Arab partners whose willingness and yearning for peace with us is even remotely close to ours," he said.

Some speakers at the conference on Jewish solidarity with Israel, called to strengthen Shamir's hand ahead of a visit to Washington next month, lashed out at media coverage of the 15-month-old Palestinian revolt.

There were few dissenting voices, although several Jewish intellectuals stayed away from the conference.

Professor Irwin Cotler of McGill University, speaking for the Canadian delegation, said Israel ignored human rights at its peril.

Sudan rebels shell Juba

Equatorial capital has food for two weeks

KAMPALA (Agencies) — Rebels in southern Sudan shelled the government-held town of Juba Saturday, killing 10 people, relief agency sources said Tuesday.

The artillery attack by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA) is the second in four weeks. On Feb. 20, SPLA shells killed 16 civilians.

The rebels, who are within a short walk from Juba, have also cut all its supply routes except for daily airlifts of food from Uganda, Kenya and northern Sudan.

Juba, the regional capital of southern Sudan, is one of the few towns in the region still held by the government. Its normal population of 100,000 has been swollen by an influx of 174,000 refugees from the fighting.

The SPLA has captured seven towns since late February. They seized the Nile River town of Mungalla, just 50 kilometres north of Juba last Friday.

Relief sources said that for the past few days about 500 refugees a day have been crossing into the extreme north west of Uganda from southern Sudan.

They started arriving after SPLA troops shelled the small government garrison of Kajo-Kaji, about halfway between the border towns of Kaya and Nimule. The SPLA captured

Nimule on March 3, the sources added.

There are now more than 30,000 Sudanese refugees in Uganda, more than 20,000 arrived in the past two weeks.

The SPLA has been fighting since 1983 against what it sees as the domination of Sudan's mainly Christian and animist south by the Muslim north.

Juba has food sufficient for two weeks, the Sudanese Commissioner for Relief and Rehabilitation, Dr. Al Haj Al Tayeb said Monday.

"There is 800 tonnes stored relief material in Juba sufficient for two weeks," Tayeb said in a press statement.

"In addition, there is some 2,500 tonnes being currently flown from Nairobi (the Kenyan capital) to Juba," Tayeb said.

"This quantity will suffice the town for another ten weeks," he said.

Tayeb was apparently referring to local press reports that said the food situation in Juba is very critical and that thousands of people are facing starvation.

"These reports are absolutely

baseless," he said.

In Rome, the World Food Programme (WFP) issued an appeal to donors Monday for \$21.7 million to support emergency food relief in Sudan.

The appeal follows meetings in Khartoum earlier this month between officials from the Sudanese government, the United Nations and relief agencies.

The Rome-based agency said relief workers are trying to avoid a repetition of last year, when as many as a quarter of a million people died from starvation after being isolated in villages cut off in the country's six-year civil war.

Emergency funds are needed to ensure immediate delivery of food and equipment, particularly to inhabitants of Sudan's war-ravaged south, the agency said.

The U.N. food relief agency said that about 160,000 tonnes of food and supplies must be delivered before May.

Meanwhile a new Sudanese government being formed under pressure from disgruntled army generals will be sworn in Wednesday, state television reported.

It said Monday that Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi will announce the new government, in which his Umma Party and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) would be the main part-

ners, at a news conference and that the cabinet would be sworn in later Wednesday.

The television was quoting a joint statement issued by Umma and the DUP, Sudan's largest political parties, after more than six hours of talks between Mahdi and DUP leader Mohammed Osman Al Mirghani.

Army generals, exasperated by the civil war in south Sudan, told Mahdi on Feb. 20 he should form a new, broad-based government.

They complained about what they called hickering between political parties and lack of sufficient support for the poorly equipped army.

They also told Mahdi he should either boost defence spending or seek a peaceful settlement to the war with the SPLA.



'Afghan troops clear Kabul-Jalalabad road'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Afghan troops have cleared the road linking Kabul to Jalalabad, enabling convoys of food and ammunition to reach the besieged city, Radio Moscow said Tuesday.

It quoted Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil but did not say where or when he had made his announcement. The report said convoys had now reached troops who have been defending the city for more than two weeks against a large rebel force.

Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Vadim Perfilov told reporters in Moscow Monday that the rebel onslaught on Jalalabad had been considerably scaled down.

He said Afghan troops were holding their positions around the eastern city and air force and artillery attacks had killed 1,500 insurgents in the previous three days. Soviet television last weekend estimated the size of the force at 20,000 and said a quarter of them were Pakistanis.

Pakistan has denied previous Afghan charges that its troops are helping Western-backed rebels.

The rebels want to set up in Jalalabad the provisional government they established last month at a meeting in Pakistan.

The Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported Afghan President Najibullah, in a television appearance Monday marking the Afghan New Year, as saying rebels were "now storming Jalalabad, raining down missiles, mines and shells on the city."

He renewed charges that Pakistan was arming the opposition and said the rebels had failed to heed all peace gestures from the Kabul authorities.

TASS also said fighting was worsening near the southern city of Kandahar, where rebels fired missiles at the city last weekend, killing three people.

Meanwhile diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Tuesday the rebels are preparing their second offensive against the Kabul government forces since last month's Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The first offensive by the rebels, known as the Mujahadeen war, was at a stalemate at Jalalabad.

Western diplomats, speaking in Islamabad on condition of anonymity, said the Mujahadeen may soon attack the airport of the southeastern provincial capital of Kandahar.

A coalition of seven Afghan rebel groups is based in Islamabad.

Diplomats said an attack on Kandahar, Afghanistan's ancient capital and its second-largest city, could take enough pressure off the rebels at Jalalabad to allow them to regain momentum.

Rebel sources confirmed that an airport assault is part of their strategy, but they have declined to say when. One diplomatic source said it probably would occur in the "near future."

Such a move could reduce the Kabul forces' concentration of aerial firepower on rebels who now are fighting to seize the eastern city of Jalalabad, about 70 kilometres from the Afghan-Pakistan border.

The Mujahadeen have captured Jalalabad's key garrison and have penetrated the city's defences since they began attacking on March 6.

However, government forces have halted their progress with massive air and artillery bombardments that reportedly have caused hundreds of casualties.

Former U.S. aide says support for Israel waning

HAIFA (R) — A former adviser to three U.S. presidents said Monday that American support for Israel was waning due to the Palestinian uprising in occupied areas and could ultimately affect financial aid to the Jewish state.

"Because of the intifada (uprising), there really is declining support for Israel in the United States," political support and, potentially in time, economic support," Gary Sick told a Haifa University symposium on U.S. policies.

Israel, the single largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid, receives \$3 billion a year from Washington.

Sick, who was a National Security Council aide for Middle East affairs under Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, said he did not see a sharp shift in U.S. policy towards Israel under President Bush.

"But I do see a very serious situation in Israel that can't be ignored and if there is a shift, I think it is in terms of U.S. public opinion which I think is going to be heard from more and more as times goes on."

Results of an opinion poll recently conducted among American Jews, usually staunch backers of Israel, showed deep misgivings over Israel's use of force to put down the 15-month-old Arab revolt in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Sick's comments came at a time of increasing wariness among Israeli officials over U.S. intentions. Washington is stepping up its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and urging Israel to ease repression against Palestinians.

Israeli officials were dismayed when Secretary of State James Baker said last week Israel might ultimately have to talk to the PLO.

Sick, who now teaches Middle East politics at Columbia University in New York, said he believed Bush's Middle East policy formulation would be "very pragmatic, very slow."

He said the strong specialisation in East-West relations by most of the key new U.S. foreign policymakers meant they would pay close attention to Soviet moves in the area.

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MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

EC envoys return to Iran

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Community (EC) nations agreed Monday to allow each of the 12 countries to send their ambassadors back to Iran, but let stand a ban on high-level visits to Iran, British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said. The EC nations recalled their envoys Feb. 20 to protest Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's death threat, issued a week earlier, against Salman Rushdie, the British author of "The Satanic Verses." Britain closed its Tehran mission altogether. Howe said Britain would not reopen its mission. "There is no change in our own position." The EC foreign ministers, at a regular monthly meeting here, agreed Monday to let each of the 12 community countries decide to send their envoys back to Tehran.

Leaders urge U.S. to end Mideast conflict

ABU DHABI (AP) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim and United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan Monday urged U.S. President George Bush's new administration to achieve peace in the Middle East. The two leaders also reviewed international and regional developments during a private meeting, an official source said. "The two leaders urged the new U.S. administration to move seriously and honestly to shoulder its responsibility for working on achieving peace in the region," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Group urges release of Belgian hostage

BEIRUT (R) — A Norwegian aid group urged Lebanese leaders Monday to work for the freedom of kidnapped Belgian doctor Jan Cools held hostage in Lebanon for 10 months. "We appeal to all the good forces in Lebanon to help us in our efforts to have Jan Cools released," said a statement by the NORWAC group, issued in Beirut. Cools disappeared May last year near the Palestinian Rashidieh refugee camp in the southern Lebanese port of Tyre. A previously unknown group called "The Soldiers of Truth" said it had seized Cools, who worked for NORWAC, and accused him of being "a spy working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad."

Kahane backers set fire to home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Jewish militants who claimed to support anti-Arab leader Rabbi Meir Kahane set fire before dawn Monday to the front door of an outgoing mayor's home, Israeli Radio reported. No one was injured in the attack, which was the third of its kind in the last five days. Dov Tavori, the outgoing mayor of the small town of Petah Tikva near Tel Aviv, said his door was burned down before dawn Monday. He said he discovered the damage at about 2 a.m. when police came to alert him. The radio said police were tipped off after an anonymous telephone caller contacted the mass-circulation Yediot Ahronot newspaper and said: "We have set fire to Dov Tavori's house and car. We identify with Kahane."

2 Killed in Turkey mine

ANKARA (R) — Two coal miners were killed and one was seriously injured in a cave-in at a mine near the black sea city of Zonguldak, the Anatolian news agency said Tuesday. The collapse occurred 400 metres below ground. At least six other miners have been killed in cave-ins and gas explosions in Turkey in the last year.

Tunisia honours Bourguiba rival

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali Monday awarded the country's highest decoration to his predecessor's most prominent opponent. Salah Ibn Youssef, who fled Tunisia in 1956 because of policy differences with former President Habib Bourguiba, was shot dead in Frankfurt in 1961, apparently by people acting on instructions from Tunis. He received the order of the independence posthumously at a ceremony marking the 33rd anniversary of Tunisian independence. Ibn Youssef, originally one of Bourguiba's chief lieutenants in the Neo-Destour Party in the 1940s and 1950s, was sentenced to death in absentia in 1958 for bringing arms into Tunisia from Libya and plotting to overthrow Bourguiba's government.

Khomeini admits carnal desires

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini acknowledged Monday that he sometimes failed in the fight against carnal desire. In a speech marking the start of the Iranian new year Tuesday, the 87-year-old ayatollah said: "I hope the Iranian nation and other Muslims in the world will transform themselves so they can work for the sake of God and not for their own victory or their carnal desires." "In his lifetime, man is afflicted with carnal desires. He needs self-discipline. And I, as the speaker of these words, have not succeeded in this task," the Iranian News Agency IRNA quoted him as saying.

Turkish embassy in Beirut shelled

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish embassy building in Beirut was hit by a shell Monday which caused some damage but no casualties, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. "Parts of the embassy's garden wall and an adjacent gardener's cottage were damaged by a shell but so far we have had no reports of any casualties," a ministry spokesman said.

Israel to stop submarine order

TEL AVIV (R) — Army chief of staff Dan Shomron wants to cancel an Israeli navy order for two West German submarines that were to be among the state's main combat vessels for the 1990s, Israel Radio said Tuesday. There was no immediate comment from the armed forces but defence sources said the proposed cut was apparently for budget reasons. Outgoing navy commander Rear Admiral Avraham Ben Shoshan said last month that the combination of new submarines and missile boats was the absolute minimum the navy needed.

The British Council

BRITISH HIGHER EDUCATION WEEK

17 - 24 March 1989

ITINERARY

Sat 18	JORDAN UNIVERSITY
Sun 19	YARMOUK UNIVERSITY
Mon 20	JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Tues 21	MUTAH UNIVERSITY
Thurs 23	BRITISH COUNCIL Open Day (2 - 7 p.m.)

For further information, please contact the Public Relations Office or the Deanship of Student Affairs at each University.

Representatives from the following institutions will be available to answer questions:

- University of Aberdeen
- Bolton Institute of Higher Education
- University of Glasgow
- University of Kent
- University of Nottingham
- Trent Polytechnic

EXHIBITION of higher education materials and how to study in Britain

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ALL ARE WELCOME

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30	Koran
15:40	Programme review
15:45	Children's programmes
17:15	Programme on plants
17:30	Out of World
18:00	News summary in Arabic
18:05	Cairo News Message
18:15	Arabic series
19:00	Local programme
19:20	Common mistakes
19:40	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:00	Programme review
22:30	Westing
22:35	Varieties programme
23:00	News summary in Arabic
23:10	Programme (cont.)

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30	French varieties
19:00	News in French
19:15	Actualite' sur le Jordanie
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Life with Lucy
21:00	Documentary
21:10	News in English
22:00	The Man Who Lived at the Risk

PRAYER TIMES

06:16	Fajr
07:34	Dhuhr (Summer)
11:43	Dhuhr
15:10	'Asr

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623411
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 717151
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
Religious Congregation Tel. 822605
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

11 will continue warm with another gradual rise in temperature and winds will be light and variable becoming

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Sami Al Khouri 681373
Dr. Khalid Ma'adi 743500
Dr. Mohammad Al Abbadi 778959
Dr. Bassem Al Qadousi 646024
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salim pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsan pharmacy 637660

IRBID: Dr. Radwan Al Sa'd (-)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 62090/93
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 66390/91
Public Security Department 656000 / 685111
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897462
Complaints Amman Municipality 788962
Complaints Directorate 788962
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 788962
Overseas Calls Central Amman Telephone 623701
Repairs Abdal Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 778112
Water Authority 680100

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/2
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 64281/6
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malika, J. Amman 630140
Palestine Shmeisat 66417/4
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66722/9
The Islamic, Abdal 66612/7
ZARQA: Al-Ahli, Abdal 66416/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marja 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-52000

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	300 / 400
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 250
Broad beans	140 / 100
Cabbage	120 / 100
Carrots	220 / 180
Cauliflower	120 / 100
Cucumbers	400 / 320
Eggplant	220 / 180
Garlic	300 / 250
Lemon	420 / 360
Leucos (per one)	100 / 70
Marrow (large)	220 / 180
Marrow (small)	360 / 300
Orange (Shamouni)	400 / 350
Orange (local)	350 / 300
Onion (dry)	250 / 200
Onion (green)	140 / 100
Pepper	360 / 300
Pepper (hot)	600 / 500
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 200
Potato	400 / 350
Spinach	80 / 50
Tomatoes	150 / 100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10	Damascus (RJ)
09:30	Agaba (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15	Larousa (RJ)
10:25	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
10:30	Riyadh (RJ)
10:45	Paris (RJ)
11:00	New York, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	London, Geneva (RJ)
11:30	Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:45	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
11:55	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
12:05	Milano (RJ)
12:15	Tunis (RJ)
12:30	Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
06:30	Larnaca, Zurich (BA)
06:30	Cairo (BA)
11:20	Rome (AZ)
12:15	Jeddah (SV)
12:15	Sana, Baghdad (TV)
13:30	Baghdad (IA)
13:40	Kuwait (KU)
13:45	Kuwait (UN)
14:10	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
14:40	Jeddah (SV)
14:40	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
17:35	Kuwait (TV)
21:35	Karachi (PK)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:35	Agaba (RJ)
10:45	Milano (RJ)
11:05	Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Riyadh (RJ)
11:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
12:00	Geneva, London (RJ)
12:15	Calcutta (RJ)
12:30	Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
12:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
12:50	Baghdad (RJ)
13:00	Jeddah (RJ)
13:15	Cairo (RJ)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
13:45	Damascus (RJ)
22:00	Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Cairo, London (BA)
06:30	Larnaca, Zurich (BA)
06:30	Cairo (BA)
11:20	Rome (AZ)
12:15	Jeddah (SV)
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14:10	Istanbul, Ankara (TK)
14:40	Jeddah (SV)
14:40	Medina, Jeddah (SV)
17:35	Kuwait (TV)
21:35	Karachi (PK)



HRH Princess Basma

Save the Children holds annual bazaar

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Save the Children Fund held its annual charity bazaar at the Nuzha Community Centre Tuesday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the fund's executive committee.

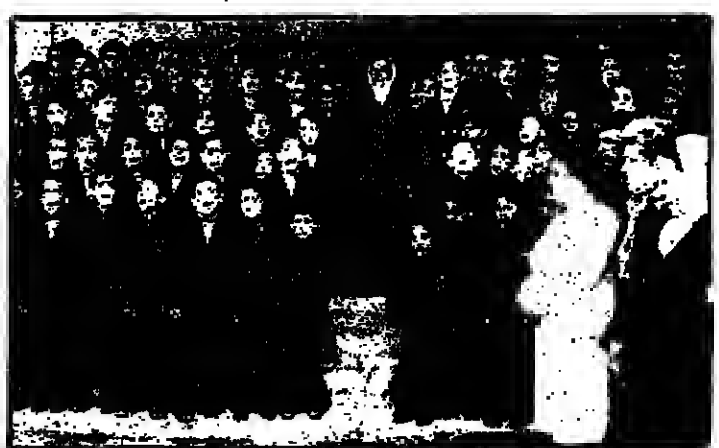
On display for three days are different types of food, child clothing, knitted, artificial flowers and traditional costumes. The proceeds of the bazaar which was opened by Princess Basma will benefit the fund's activities in caring for women and children and developing local communities, especially in southern Jordan.

The fund was established in 1974 as a Jordanian social welfare organisation based in Amman with services extending throughout the Kingdom. It was created after British Save the Children Fund had terminated its services in Jordan in order to continue the invaluable work that had already been achieved in rural and nomadic regions of Jordan.

The Nuzha Centre was built by the fund with financial support from the Amman Chamber of Commerce and the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund.

Jordan celebrates Mothers' Day, pays tribute to Queen Zein

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mothers' Day was celebrated in Jordan and other Arab countries Tuesday. A statement issued by the Jordan News Agency (Petra) said that on the anniversary Jordanians



A file photo of Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother during celebrations of 1988 Mother's Day at Umm Al Hussein Orphanage

pay tribute to the Queen Mother Queen Zein Al Sbaraf, mother of His Majesty King Hussein and Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad, Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Basma. Her Majesty's endeavours and sacrifices as a mother and first lady of Jordan is also remembered.

On the occasion a charity bazaar was held at the Philadelphia International Hotel in Amman by ladies of Al Nasr district in cooperation with a number of charitable societies in the Kingdom. On display were samples of handicrafts, embroideries, artificial flowers, knitwear and other items. Ministry of Information's Secretary General Trad Al Fayez opened the bazaar on behalf of Minister of Information Hani Khasawneh.

More aid to combat locusts:

West Germany provides equipment, insecticides worth DM 1.5 million

AMMAN (J.T.) — West Germany is to provide Jordan with equipment, insecticides and radio equipment worth DM 1.5 million to assist the Kingdom in locust-combat operations, according to an agreement signed in Amman Tuesday.

The agreement, which falls within Bonn's technical cooperation programme, was signed by West German Ambassador Herwig Bartels and Minister of Agriculture Yusef Hamdan Al Jaber.

The announcement came only one day after the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced the arrival of two "air tractor planes" at the request of the ministry to assist in the ministry's efforts in fighting the pest.

The two gifts came at a time

when Jordan is bracing for a fight against the desert locusts expected to invade the Kingdom's eastern and south-eastern regions this spring. Waves of desert locusts, which invaded the southeastern part of the country in the past few months were beaten off by Ministry of Agriculture teams backed by air support from the Royal Jordanian Air Force and the badia police.

The Ministry of Agriculture earlier this month produced exhaust sprayers that will be essential in the campaign against the locust invasion, expected this spring.

According to experts, Jordan's supply of exhaust sprayers will be a major asset in the control of locusts.

In December 1988, the Ministry of Agriculture issued an appeal to friendly nations to provide assistance to the Kingdom to help in the anti-locust campaign, and has been issuing statements with guidance and instruction about means of dealing with the locusts, precautions to be taken while handling equipment and pesticides used in fighting the insects.

The minister of agriculture said then that more than \$2 million were needed to cover the cost of equipment and pesticides, and that his ministry was providing only \$842,000 and hoped to get the rest from other countries and organisations.

Parliamentary affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — European Community delegate to Jordan Christian Falkowski had a meeting Tuesday with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi to discuss an international parliamentary meeting in Brussels in the coming month.

The Brussels meeting is expected to tackle the subject of cooperation between countries in the Mediterranean region and to draw up a general policy for such cooperation. The meeting with Lawzi was attended by Dr. Khalil Al Salem, a House member who will take part in the coming meeting.

Meanwhile a Jordanian parliamentary delegation led by Upper House member Babjat

Talhouni has returned to Amman after taking part in an International Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting held in Budapest. Talhouni who met with Hungarian government leaders to discuss the Middle East and other world issues of common concern delivered Jordan's address to the conference.

The participants in the Budapest meeting, Talhouni said in a statement upon returning here, have voiced their full backing for the projected international Middle East peace conference. Talhouni was accompanied by House member Hazem Nusseibeh who also addressed the conference.



Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan Tuesday presents the Al Kawkab Medal to Angelo Jayakoddy (Petra photo)

Joyakoddy honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has conferred the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the third order on Angelo Jayakoddy director of the Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR) upon the termination of his duty in Jordan.

The medal was awarded in recognition of Jayakoddy's efforts in promoting services for the care of the handicapped in Jordan, according to an official statement Tuesday.

Minister of Social Development Fawwaz Touqan presented Jayakoddy with the medal at a special ceremony during which he paid tribute to outgoing director

and the existing cooperation between SOIR and the Ministry of Social Development in rehabilitation services. SOIR has been operating in Jordan for over 22 years providing opportunities for education, training and care of mentally retarded children and youth.

SOIR is a Swedish humanitarian relief organisation founded in 1938 with its headquarters in Lund, southern Sweden, and strives to assist the poor and rehabilitate the handicapped. Its branch in Jordan employs more than 100 Jordanians working side-by-side with five Swedish voluntary specialists in rehabilitation fields.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

YEMENI DELEGATION: A North Yemeni delegation headed by Electricity and Water Minister Mohammad Jamal will arrive in Amman Wednesday on a several-day official visit to Jordan for talks with ministers of energy and mineral resources and irrigation on scopes of cooperation in the fields of water, irrigation and energy. (Petra)

CLIMATE CHANGES: Two Jordanian officials will take part Wednesday in a live Worldnet dialogue on planning for world climate changes. Dr. Arafat Tamimi, Vice-President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) for Industrial Affairs and Duraid Mahasneh, secretary-general of the Aqaba Region Authority will exchange views via satellite with William Moomaw and Irving, minister of the World Resources Institute. (J.T.)

GOVERNORS LEAVE: Governors of the two Egyptian governorates of Cairo and Alexandria Tuesday left Amman at the conclusion of the fifth conference for Islamic Capitals and Cities Organisation which ended in Amman Monday. (Petra)

AUDIT DISCUSSIONS: Two meetings were held Tuesday at the Prime Ministry during which ministers of state for prime ministry affairs, tourism, Audit Bureau President Hashem Dabbas, and officials from the Social Security Corporation discussed the violations contained in the Audit Bureau's report on the tourism ministry, Social Security Corporation and the Tourism Investment Department. (Petra)

DENTAL CONFERENCE: The eighth Jordanian dental conference starts at the University of Jordan's engineering faculty Wednesday, with 71 researchers, 400 dentists and representatives from 18 Arab and Jordanian universities attending. (Petra)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday attends the opening session of the cancer conference at the University of Jordan, NHI Director Lt. General Daoud Hanania addresses the gathering (Petra photo)

Queen Noor opens cancer conference, urges

research on disease's psychological effects conference calls for awareness campaign, early Cancer diagnosis

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday called on the participants of the first cancer conference in Jordan to stress the importance of conducting research on the psychological effects of cancer on patients and their families.

After the opening ceremony, the Queen inquired the participants and organisers of the four-day conference about Jordan's facilities for the treatment of children suffering from cancer, especially leukemia (cancer of the blood), and discussed the treatment of cancers which only attack women.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the conference at the University of Jordan, acting Minister of Health Hisham Al Khatib said that it was necessary to create awareness for the need of early detection and treatment of cancer, and to ensure the availability of relevant medical equipment in the Kingdom.

Khatib said that there were not enough awareness campaigns which help citizens develop proper lifestyle that would help them avoid acquiring cancer.

"The main cause for cancer cases is the lifestyle. The lifestyle which allows for smoking, eating the wrong food, coming into unnecessary contact with the sun as well as with carcinogenic materials, and tampering with the environment are all forces which cause cancer. All of these are of our own making; therefore, we are able to avoid and solve them if the human will exists," Khatib told a large group of participants and guests.

The acting minister expressed hope that the conference — which groups specialists from Jordan, Arab countries, Europe and the United States — would transmit to Jordanians ideas which would help them to steer clear of forces that cause cancer. "If we succeed in this, we would have destroyed one of the causes of

National Medical Institute has approved a plan to build a new centre for treating these diseases, "and looks to reaching a high level of treatment which would save our citizens and our government the expense and the trouble of treatment abroad."

President of the University of Jordan Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali said at the conference, sponsored and organised by the Jordan Cancer Society (JCS), that a disease of this kind and of this strength "calls upon all of us to direct our research and our efforts to combat and eradicate this disease."

"This is goal that will not be achieved without concerted efforts on the part of all scientists and doctors with support from governments and concerned authorities, and through the exchange of knowledge among all of us," Majali said.

Addressing the conference Majali suggested: "Let your efforts be directed at the psychological impacts of this disease on patients and their families."

One out of four

According to the head of the JCS and the dean of the faculty of pharmacy at the University of Jordan, Dr. Walid Al Turk, one out of four persons in Jordan faces the danger of getting cancer during his or her lifetime, adding that world statistics show that there is a 66 per cent chance for curing cancer patients if treated at an early stage.

"There is also a 33 per cent chance of curing cancer when treated at an advanced stage. From this view point, the JCS has made plans for early cancer detection by establishing four centres and a mobile early detection unit in order to serve citizens all over the Kingdom," Turk said, adding that the first centre in Amman and the mobile unit are

cancer in our society," he asserted.

Awareness

Also speaking at the opening session, National Medical Institute Director Lt.-Gen. Daoud Hanania said that the treatment of cancer needs a complete team of doctors and technicians, and an awareness among patients of the forms of cancer and the possibilities of treatment.

"This needs to be supported by governments, and society at large, by extending medical equipment for the treatment of cancer," Hanania stated.

Hanania explained that Jordan first began treatment of cancer diseases in 1961 with the assistance of the World Health Organisation (WHO). The government-owned Al Bashir Hospital established the radiotherapy department when the cobalt machine was acquired, and doctors were nominated from the Ministry of Health and the Royal Medical Services to study radiotherapy treatment and specialisation in cancer diseases abroad, he explained.

Hanania went on to say that later a team from the American cancer society visited Jordan to offer their assistance and advice on the establishment of a cancer treatment centre, which opened at Al Bashir Hospital in January 1987.

Cancer centre

Hanania added that the

scheduled to operate before the end of this year.

Turk noted that 50 per cent of all cancers are preventable, and 30 per cent of cancer in urban areas is caused from smoking.

"The most important method for reducing the number of cancer patients is by having a smoke-free society. Hence, the JCS, with the cooperation and assistance from the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society, has launched awareness campaigns c. smoking and its relation to cancer," Turk said.

He added that the JCS, whose honorary chairperson is His Majesty King Hussein, is aware that cancer is a dangerous problem, "and thousands of Jordanians fall victim to this disease, be they fathers, mothers, children or dear ones."

Working papers

The working papers in the conference cover various subjects on cancer:

- Cancer management in the Arab-Islamic medicine.
 - Several papers on leukemia (cancer of the blood) in children and adults and psychological impact on patients and families.
 - Ovarian cancer.
 - Cancer of the digestive system.
 - Cancer of the lymph nodes (lymphomas).
 - Lung cancer and its different treatments.
 - Head, neck and thyroid cancer.
 - Breast cancer.
 - Different cancer treatments and surgeries.
- In addition to the lectures given on cancer, the conference also includes an exhibition of medicines and medical equipment relating to cancer, in which Jordanian pharmaceutical companies and foreign medical companies are being represented.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Egyptian artist 'Adli Rizkullah at Al Wasiti Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by seven Jordanian artists at the Art Gallery of Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation — 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 3 - 6 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Ahmad Ismail displaying paintings on Maqamat Al Hariri and Jordanian landscapes at the Gallery, Hotel Jordan Intercontinental — 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- ★ An exhibition of posters on the French Revolution at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Mohammad Al Jalooz at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Moroccan artist Al Hasbani Izza at the Gallery, Jabal Luweibdeh.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition displaying works by German artists Lieberman, Stevett and Corioth at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ The Amman computer exhibition at the King Abdullah Complex — 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition displaying paintings by children at the Housing Bank Complex.
- ★ An art exhibition by Yusra Abu Ghazaleh at Philadelphia Hall, Holiday Inn — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A photography exhibition displaying photos depicting Jordan's historical and touristic sites at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition of Jordanian national heritage displaying Jordanian-made carpets and dresses of Jordanian rural women at the University of Jordan.
- ★ At the National Gallery of Fine Arts, discussion with Moroccan painter Al Hashimi Izza with Jordanian plastic artists. Open for the public.

BAZAAR

- ★ A charity bazaar at the Nozha Social Development Centre.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "Chouans" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

DIALOGUE

- ★ A live Worldnet dialogue on "Planning for World Climatic Change" in which Dr. Arafat Tamimi and Duraid Mahasneh from Jordan will exchange views via satellite with Washington panelists Dr. William Moomaw and Irving Minister at the American Centre — 3:00 p.m.

Irbid hosts seminar on zakat

IRBID (Petra) — A seminar on zakat (alms for the poor) was held at Yarmouk University Tuesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat deputised for Prince Hassan at the seminar and delivered an address explaining the aims of the zakat which is considered as one of the Islam's main religious duties.

He said that zakat is designed to provide help to the poor and the needy, and help enhance economic stability in a Muslim society.

According to Khayyat, Muslims can offer money, in-kind help, property, land produce and other materials as their contribution to the improvement of the Islamic society through zakat.

Dr. Arselan Bany Yassin chairman of the board of the Islamic cultural centre in Irbid which organised the seminar delivered a speech pointing out the aims of the seminar and the topics it was to tackle.

He also outlined the centre's activities and programmes. Dr. Abdul Mun'em Mohammad Hassanain from Ain Shams University in Cairo, Egypt

addressed the meeting underlining the importance of zakat as one of the main duties of a Muslim which also include praying, fasting Ramadan and performing the pilgrimage to Mecca.

The participants in the two-day seminar are nearly 40 scholars from Jordanian and Arab universities who will review working papers dealing with the effects of zakat on socio-economic life in the Islamic World.

The governor of Irbid and local government department officials and prominent Islamic figures attended the opening session.



Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Khayyat Tuesday addresses a zakat seminar in Irbid (Petra photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1978.

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Weekly Political Pulse

By Waleed Sadi

Concessions from both sides

I SUSPECT that when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker hinted that Israel may have to negotiate with the PLO, he was fishing for something in return from the Palestinian organisation. Maybe it is the U.S. way of asking for its price. What precisely Washington seeks from the PLO is something that will soon be revealed in Tunis where the American-PLO talks are scheduled to restart.

In itself the introduction of the PLO as an interlocutor in the peace process is a marked departure from American orthodoxy on the Palestinian role in the Middle Eastern diplomacy. Some observers have ventured to postulate that the new emerging American perspective towards the Arab-Israeli conflict reflects the personal character and value judgement of the new American President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker. It will be noted that both men are real Texans whose personalities and sense of Americanism were molded in the Lone Star State of Texas. To know Texas is to know Messers Bush and Baker. That is how some knowledgeable Americans would sum the reasons behind the recent metamorphosis in the White House thinking about the Arabs and the Israelis. But such anthropological explanations would not illustrate in full the dynamics that culminated in a rather sudden turn about position in Washington regarding the Palestinian conflict.

To begin with one cannot but discern the remarkable change in American public opinion vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict in the wake of the long durated Palestinian uprising. Over the past 15 months there has been a fundamental shift in American opinion both private and official from outright and rigid support to Israel

to a stronger appreciation of the Arab point of view and a remarkable sympathy towards the Palestinians facing Israeli occupation. But what really gave the green light to Washington to think of the unthinkable and accept the PLO as a central party in the negotiations for the settlement of the Palestinians case is the emergence of strong Jewish support to the idea of engaging the PLO in any negotiations leading to the equitable resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With the Jewish communities in the West playing ever more pivotal role in shaping the American policy in the Middle East, the next aspired step would be to have them play a similar role in formulating Israeli policies towards the Arab World in general and the Palestinians in particular.

Whether Israel would ever be persuaded by Washington to nod in agreement to the call for negotiating directly with the PLO is something else. As the Palestinian intifada goes on, however, the domestic pressure building up within Israel to talk to the PLO is bound to increase. The voices of prominent Israeli leaders agreeing to talks with the PLO are clearly on the increase. What started with the lone voice of Abba Eban has proliferated to include Israeli political personalities like Ezer Weizman, Matti Peled, Mordechai Gur and scores of others who are now committed to the PLO option. All such developments, whether from Washington or from within the Israeli body politic, may still fumble over if the right steps are not taken in this direction. There are many hurdles still to be overcome if this new process is to come to fruition. Uppermost is the question of whether there will be a clear end for American and Israeli demands for more concessions from the Palestinian side. There is already evidence

that the Palestinian ranks are breaking up in the seams under the pressure for continued concessions by the Americans and the Israelis. And that the Israeli appetite for concessions have increased, there is no telling what would be satiable to them. Yet, maintaining the momentum in favour of dialoguing with the PLO may entail perpetual spelling out of additional concessions; and what is worse, the exposure of all the Palestinian cards well before the formal process of negotiation gets started within the framework of an international conference. The salvation for the Palestinian side in this context may lie in extracting equivalent concessions from the Israeli side along the way of informal negotiations that are currently going on. From a practical point of view this informal negotiation process between the Israelis and the Palestinians have actually started a long time ago. The edging of the Israeli side closer to accepting the PLO as a central party in negotiating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in return for all the substantive concessions yielded by the PLO has already become part and parcel of the negotiating process undergoing a long time ago. With Washington engaged in formal contacts with the PLO and slowly but surely accepting the PLO as a party in the peace process, the U.S. is clearly in the midst of this sometimes quiet and sometimes noisy but informal negotiating process. This whole process may however fumble on such thorny issues as the right of return that the Palestinian side upholds till now. As the informal negotiations between the Israeli and the Palestinians continue such formidable issues would surface at one time or another. How they are dealt with could very well determine the outcome of many years of informal negotiations that are going on in the Middle East.

Pure common sense

ONE cannot agree more with the appeal made by the secretary-general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Monday at the end of the seminar held at the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss ways and means to increase Jordanian exports, to the effect that the private sector in Jordan must endeavour more diligently than ever to reduce production costs of manufactured goods and improve their quality. This is pure common sense, the observance of which could very well make or break Jordan's determined efforts to augment its exports regionally and internationally. As economists would see this assessment, cutting production costs would necessarily entail increasing productivity. In this context there is an inevitable interplay between mechanical and intellectual technologies. Most, if not all, developing countries have failed thus far to complement the introduction of the state-of-art mechanical technologies with the incorporation of intellectual technology in the minds and personalities of the workers and technicians who operate such modern mechanical tools. There is a cultural dimension to all this equation that needs to be addressed if we in Jordan hope and expect to increase our productivity to such an extent as to make our industries competitive, regionally and internationally. It goes without saying that improving the quality of our exports is organically linked with the productivity issue.

It is relevant to mention at this juncture that there are two schools of thought on how to enhance productivity and improve quality. Many developing countries had flirted with the experiment of opening their borders to imports, to force domestic industries to become competitive by reducing their production costs as well as improving the quality of their products. It was found that that was the only effective and workable way to improve local production of manufactured goods. Turkey is a good example of this school of thought which, after many years of experimenting with closing its borders in the face of imports, found out at the end that it was only by forcing local production to face up to foreign competition that they improved their productivity and become more competitive. To be sure what succeeds in Turkey, or any other country for that matter, may not succeed in Jordan where the outflow of hard currencies has had a crippling effect on the whole Jordanian economy. The question that remains for Jordanian private sector to answer is this: How will they exploit the protection afforded them by the new economic and fiscal policies in Jordan to reduce their production costs and improve the quality of their products? Surely they must be given a grace period during which they can be expected to respond affirmatively. If they fail, one would think of experimenting with other economic policies to force them to become more competitive. In other words, this second school of thought, which we in Jordan have reluctantly subscribed to, must remain under close scrutiny at all times. We certainly do not want to repeat the harsh experiments of many Socialist countries.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

IN its editorial Tuesday Al Ra'i daily referred to the Karamah battle which took place on March 21, 1968 describing it as a bright spot in the life of the sad and grieved Arab Nation which suffered a setback in the 1967 war. The paper said that the outcome of the battle frustrated the Israeli leaders' dreams and their false hopes and reestablished confidence in the hearts of the Arab masses. The outcome of the battle, the paper noted, shattered the myth of the so-called invincible Israeli army and awakened the Arab Nation. What happened in 1968 near Karamah in the Jordan Valley region, was not a mere military battle but a development that brought shame and defeat to the enemy and constituted an important turning point in the course of events in the Middle East. The defeat thwarted Israel's hopes of occupying further Arab lands and dominating the destiny of the Arab World, the paper added. It said had the Israelis succeeded in their aggression, the whole region that constituted the eastern front would have fallen prey to Zionist ambitions.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the situation in the occupied Arab territories in the wake of the latest escalation of violence. Mahmoud Rimawi says that Israeli military experts have now reported to the government that the uprising in the Palestinian lands was expected to last for several years and there was no way of halting it. At the same time, Shimon Peres the leader of the opposition and partner in the present coalition, has issued fresh threats to the government indicating that his party would pull out from the government unless the Likud took steps towards responding to the requirements of peace. The writer says that these are new elements of pressure being exerted on Yitzhak Shamir who has been adamant in his position and continues his rejection of peace ideas. Shamir is determined to close his ears to all calls and threats, and is determined to reject all peace bids, a position which sooner or later would pave the way for the downfall of his regime, the writer adds. He says that the wind of peace is now gradually and slowly affecting Tel Aviv and the Zionists have no alternative but to succumb to the peace calls and reason and capitulate before the increasing pressure and the force of the Palestinian revolt.

Al Dustour daily newspaper referred to the divisions within the present Israeli coalition government resulting from Shamir's rejection of peace and the idea of an international conference to achieve it. The paper said the current divisions represent the most significant outcome of the Palestinian uprising which caused splits between the Likud and Labour in the present government in Israel. The paper said while Shamir continues his drive to mobilise Zionist support for his mad policies, several moderate elements in Israel and the Labour Party as well as intelligence reports presented to the government work in the opposite direction. Shamir is under increasing pressure from within and from outside Israel to end the occupation and open a dialogue with the PLO which represents the Palestinian people so that peace can be achieved in the region. It said that Shamir has responded with mad and frenzied actions; and is taking a more intransigent stand which will be put to the real test during his coming visit to the United States and his talks with the Bush administration.

By Carol Giacomo

Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States enters a new stage of talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation this week after offering concessions to the Arab point of view on Middle East peace.

First, Secretary of State James Baker has embarked upon a strategy that some analysts perceive as giving the PLO and Israel more or less parallel status.

Second, Baker has admitted Israel may someday have to negotiate peace with its nemesis the PLO, a statement that five months ago would have been unthinkable from an American official.

"He certainly threw a stone in the water," said Middle East expert Robert Hunter of Baker's comment on potential PLO-Israeli talks and its unpredictable rippling effect.

"If I was the PLO, I'd read that very positively," he told Reuters. The meeting on Wednesday in Tunis is the second "substantive" one since the United States and the PLO resumed their dialogue last December after a 13-year break.

Washington had barred contacts until PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat met U.S. conditions to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

There have been other U.S.-PLO talks since the first meeting but all focused on American complaints about PLO raids against

Israel, not on the larger regional peace questions.

That dialogue begins on Wednesday when Washington is expected to ask the PLO to take steps — like halting demonstrations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — to help improve the regional climate so Israeli-Palestinian negotiations can eventually occur.

"It's important for those talks to be useful to both sides," a senior State Department official told Reuters.

Particularly after the visit to Washington last week by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, "it's important for the PLO to know exactly what the U.S. position is," the official said.

As with Arens's visit, U.S. officials and private analysts are not expecting an immediate breakthrough at the Tunis talks. "This is a long-term process," the official said.

Arens's trip was a reconnaissance mission ahead of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's arrival here next month. It marked the start of Baker's foray as secretary of state into the diplomatic morass of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Like the PLO, Israel was urged to devise proposals for reducing tensions in the occupied territories, where a Palestinian uprising is now in its 15th month.

President Bush twice appealed for Shamir to bring "new ideas" when he comes here in April — an emphasis that seemed to pique Arens. U.S. and Israeli sources

said the foreign minister left angry because of Baker's reference to eventual PLO-Israeli talks, which Israel rejects.

Moreover, Arens gave no hint that his right-wing government would heed U.S. calls for tension-reducing measures.

There was no apparent arm-twisting but the U.S. message to its close ally was clear — appropriately so, several experts said.

Baker, considered a pragmatist, and Bush "have set the stage for a long, constructive dialogue, not a confrontation with Israel," said Fred Axtelgard of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

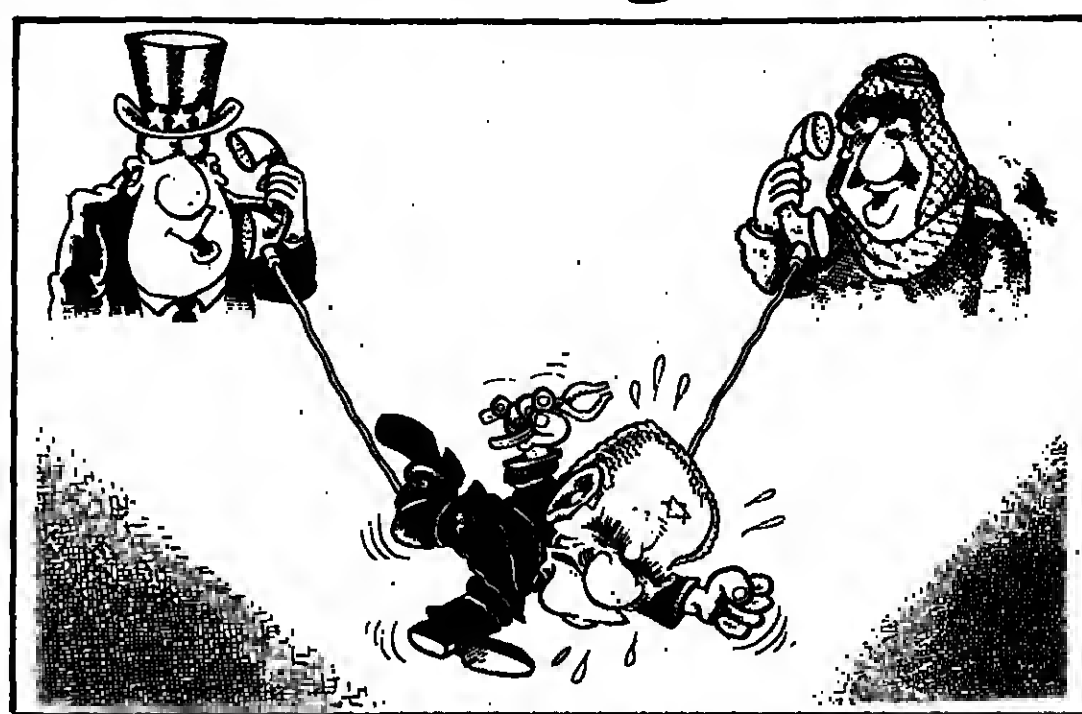
"If there is a change in Israel's position, it will come about through persuasion, not bullying," he said.

Baker has eschewed the approach of his predecessor George Shultz, who in his last year in office advanced a detailed peace plan with specific dates for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

This caused the two sides to move farther apart, not closer, and the Shultz initiative failed.

An Arab diplomat who asked not to be identified told Reuters Bush and Baker are luckier than Shultz because they have inherited a more auspicious climate that should make success easier.

In particular, he said, the United States and PLO are now talking. The PLO seems more interested in a political solution than ever before and the Soviet Union has expressed increasing interest in being helpful in facil-



tating regional peace.

Convinced the two main players are not yet ready to talk directly, however, Baker has taken a two-pronged approach that seeks to reshape the political environment between Israel and the Palestinians.

First, he is encouraging them to take steps that would prove to each other they are serious about peace and credible partners in a dialogue.

Second, there would be direct discussions on a final settlement.

The blueprint for this strategy was developed last year by a study group sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy chaired by Lawrence Eagleburger, now deputy secretary of state.

Another prominent group member was Dennis Ross, Baker's director of policy planning and a leader in shaping the new U.S. approach to Middle East peace.

One obvious question is how long Baker is willing to devote

time and energy to this intractable problem. Israel, especially, may try to resist participation, hoping Baker gets distracted by other pressing issues.

"I don't get the sense certainly that the secretary has put any time limit on this," a top Baker aide told Reuters.

"I don't see how one, in a fit of impatience, could say that's all I'm going to do in that region," he said, adding: "I don't even see how that could ever be an option."

Yugoslav political pluralism faces conservative resistance

By Andrej Gustinac

Reuter

BELGRADE — At least 15 opposition groups with the features of political parties have been formed in northern republics of Communist Yugoslavia.

But political pluralism faces growing resistance in the conservative south, where party hardliners are pressing for a return to centralised one-party rule.

The opposition groups have sprung up in Slovenia, along the Austrian border, and in Yugoslavia's second-largest republic, Croatia.

Turmoil in the south, where troops and tanks were sent this month to crush ethnic Albanian unrest in Kosovo province, has strengthened the hand of conservatives rallying around the biggest republic, Serbia, in a drive for greater central control over the autonomous province.

The state presidency declared a partial state of emergency in Kosovo on February 27 to crush a general strike by the province's ethnic Albanian majority.

The Presidency, the country's highest constitutional body, has signalled it may soon move to crush all opposition, including the new parties challenging one-party Communist rule.

"The founding of parties is incompatible with the country's constitutional system," it said in a statement this month.

"The Presidency will insist that the competent state organs treat such occurrences in keeping with the law and constitution."

As the ruling Communist party plunged into factional power rivalry over the past year, opposition groups ranging from Social Democrats to Christian Socialists, Greens and Anarchists appeared in Slovenia.

The republic's leaders have tolerated "non-party pluralism" allowing opposition groups to exist so long as they join the official Socialist Alliance mass organisation.

Slovenian Socialist Alliance President Jozse Smole said recently: "Only associations which re-

spect the constitutional and socio-economic order of Yugoslavia can be established."

In February Slovenian Social Democrats formed the Slovenian Social-Democratic Alliance, and were the first group to state openly that they intended to bid for power.

"Our goal is the peaceful transformation of Yugoslavia from a one-party state into a multi-party parliamentary democracy," said France Tomcic, its founder.

Under police pressure, Tomcic promised his group would join the official Socialist Alliance, but

he told Reuters the final decision would have to be taken by its members.

Another opposition group, the Slovenian Democratic Alliance, was formed in January, but it joined the Socialist Alliance.

Both groups advocated free democratic elections and private enterprise, and an end to Communist Party rule.

"A political party in the western sense cannot be legally formed in Yugoslavia," said Lenart Setine, executive secretary of the Slovenian Communist Party Central Committee.

"These groups have to play by constitutional and legal rules," Slovenia and Croatia have strong cultural and historical links with neighbouring Austria and Italy.

Before Yugoslavia's creation in 1918, Slovenia and Croatia were under Austro-Hungary, while Serbia and other southern regions of today's Yugoslavia were under the Ottoman Turks.

Recent polls showed most Slovenes felt alienated from the rest of Yugoslavia, seeing their future in Western Europe.

"If I am going to travel anywhere, I'd sooner go to Paris or Berlin than Belgrade," a young Slovene journalist said. "I feel much more at home there than in, say, Serbia."

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug noted that Yugoslavia is now drawn to two political poles: pluralism as an expression of greater democracy versus one-party monolithism pushed by Serbia.

The country is hit by its worst political and economic crisis since World War II, with 300 per cent inflation, crumbling living stan-

dards and power struggles within the party.

Slovenia, while not unaffected by the economic crisis, still has the highest living standards in the country, with average monthly wages of about 200 dollars, twice the Yugoslav average.

The Slovene opposition groups have found common ground with their regional party and its leader Milan Kucan, especially on the Kosovo issue, fearing that a similar intervention could be launched against Slovenia to crack down on liberalism.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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Return of the boatpeople

VIETNAM's boatpeople are back in the international limelight. A world which, for more than a decade, has witnessed a tragic odyssey as thousands sought to escape from extreme economic hardship and political persecution, is now watching what could prove to be the first step of the process in reverse.

Seventy-five Vietnamese who fled to Hong Kong are now back in their homeland after voluntarily returning.

They are the vanguard of up to 9,000 boatpeople who may take advantage of a repatriation scheme agreed upon by Britain and Vietnam.

There are at least 60,000 boatpeople currently encamped in East Asian countries, of whom only about half are expected to be resettled in Western countries.

Of the above total, 26,000 have found their way to Hong Kong, attracted by its high living stan-

dards and liberal policy towards refugees. But with about six million people already occupying a limited area, the colony could hardly be expected to absorb so many newcomers.

Quite apart from this simple consideration, there are other factors such as the traditional antipathy between Chinese and Vietnamese. The colony is scheduled to revert to China in 1997.

It is against this background that the accord between Britain and Vietnam was reached. Hanoi has given an assurance that the returnees will not be punished, but the repatriation scheme is to be supervised by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees.

During their first year back the returnees will receive cash aid, part of which will come from Britain. For many Vietnamese peasants this will represent at least three years' income.

The first group to return was greeted by a lavish breakfast and a promise from government officials that no punishment would follow. This was not surprising for Hanoi has much to gain from the success of this experiment.

The exodus of the boatpeople, together with the opprobrium that the invasion of Cambodia attracted, left Vietnam largely isolated and deprived of much needed economic aid from the West.

This resulted in virtual economic collapse with rampant inflation and acute shortages, especially of food.

But the Vietnamese leadership is obviously hoping that with the promised withdrawal from Cambodia, the repatriation scheme will complete the country's international rehabilitation. This, in turn, will give a vital boost to the economic reform programme launched two years ago.

Therefore Hanoi has pressing reasons for ensuring that the scheme does not fail.

When the first group of returnees arrived, carrying mementoes of Hong Kong such as sophisticated transistor radios, one admitted to being frightened as he left the aircraft and saw policemen.

"I didn't know what would happen to me," the 18-year-old Nguyen Manh Trung added. "But then, when the officials talked to us, I became calm again because I knew I would not be put in prison."

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The boat people on arrival to safety.



The camp of Sham Shin Po where 5,000 refugees were living



Vietnamese refugees arriving in Hong Kong in 1979.

Wild West lives on in the deserts of southern Spain

Martin Langfield
Reuter

TABERNAS, Spain — The ghosts of forgotten gunfighters walk the desert in Southern Spain.

In the 1960s film-makers shut hundreds of low-budget "spaghetti" Westerns in Spain's southeastern Almeria region, drawn by its Arizona-like wastes, constant sunlight and low prices.

Scenes from classic movies such as David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia" and Sergio Leone's "Once upon a time in the West" were also filmed here — and some productions have left permanent mementoes of their passage: complete wild West towns nestling among the rocks and red sand.

One of them, "mini-Hollywood", also called Yucca city, near Tabernas, is now run as a tourist attraction, offering staged saloon bar brawls and high-noon shoot-outs at weekends and on public holidays.

"They don't make too many Westerns these days," manager Jose Gomez Adanez said. "We run it more for tourists, and companies who want to make videos."

Twanging Western theme-music booms from hidden loudspeakers as the visitor treads the black cinders along the main street.

There is a hunk, a Chinese laundry, and a hardware store doubling as an undertaker.

And in the main square Yucca city displays its gallows.

Out of season, few visitors come, though a small party of Spanish schoolchildren seen here recently were gleefully trying the noose around one another's necks.

The town was built for the films "A fistful of dollars" and "The good, the bad and the ugly" that launched Clint Eastwood to fame in the 1960s as a cheroo-chumping gunfighter.

At the saloon some visitors give in to the temptation to stride manly out through the swing doors for an imaginary showdown.

To complete its authenticity, Yucca city has its own "Boot hill" cemetery set slightly back from the main street.

The illusion is only spoilt by walking behind the buildings, where the jobs supporting some of the frontages come into view.

Local people say their lives became entangled with the bustle of the film world.

Antonio Ortiz Garcia, a former driver with a film-company, remembers how he was pressed into service on "Lawrence of Arabia" one day.

"They dressed me up as an English soldier and made me pretend to drive up in a rush, haul off the breaks and skid to a halt," he said. "They made me use really heavily, with a blond wig and moustache, so I wouldn't appear too Spanish."

He said the scene was shot in a slow-motion, with the car pulled slowly forward on a rope, then speeded up.

In the passenger seat was Peter O'Toole, in the role that would make him famous as the British scholar turned army officer who led a revolt of Arab tribesmen against the Turks during World War I.

Ortiz had seen his own brief performance on the big screen. "But you wouldn't recognise me, I didn't recognise myself."

The vogue for Almeria's desert may have passed, though a spoof Western, "Rustlers' rhapsody," was shot nearby in 1984 and American director Steven Spielberg filmed parts of his "Empire of the Sun" in southern Spain two years ago.

The film-makers were welcome because they brought money and work as well as the occasional chance to appear as an extra.

One Almeria man became so enamoured of Westerns that he used to turn up auditions wearing his own cowboy outfit, Ortiz recalled.

"He appeared in hundreds. He has photos with all the stars."

And the spirit of the Wild West lives on, it seems, even on Almeria's city streets.

You can still see him cycling around in his outfit, I think he even has the guns," Ortiz said.

Restoring the dignity of coca

By Amanda Davila

Peasants in Bolivia are searching for legitimate uses for the coca leaves they grow. Their livelihoods are threatened by government crack-downs on the coca growing which feeds international drug trafficking.

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA — Despite the immense suffering that cocaine is causing worldwide, Bolivian peasant growers of the "coca" plant from which the drug is extracted are fighting "to restore the dignity of this sacred and medicinal plant, which has been blemished by drug traffickers and users."

So says Prudencio Ticona, who has been entrusted by thousands of Bolivian peasants to defend traditional coca growing.

Thirty-eight years old, Ticona was until 1986 also a coca grower on a tiny plot in the tropical valleys of Chapare, in the department of Cochabamba. He has since been a representative of the fellow peasants in the Council for Industrialisation of Coca (COINCOCA). This body brings together four federations of small coca growers in Chapare, involving 35,000 families.

The coca plant was utilised centuries ago by the Inca civilisation in what is today Peru and Bolivia, for medicinal, ritual and social uses. The "acullico," chewing of coca leaves, is still a common practice in an estimated 40% of Bolivia's households.

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In Bolivia coca production from 12,000 hectares is intended for traditional consumption. Another 48,000 hectares are currently cultivated to produce leaves that will first be converted into coca paste, and then into cocaine for the international market of illegal drugs.

The Chapare growers are among the 80,000 coca producers in Cochabamba; a further 30,000 are in La Paz and Los Yungas. Since the creation of COINCOCA in 1986, Ticona has been responsible for the promotion of coca products for medicinal purposes. In attempting to create a market, peasants are looking for competitive alternatives to the cultivation of coca for the manufacture of illegal drugs.

The medicines are prepared by traditional coca producers following the recipes of their ancestors but using modern methods.

COINCOCA has applied to the Bolivian Ministry of Health for licences to market three products: "coca syrup", a product claimed to counter physical weakness, sexual impotence and anaemia; "Cocabetes" which is described as an anti-diabetic to

reduce the sugar level in the blood; and "Cocaestet," for obesity.

The scientific justification for these claims is not clear. Salim Ascha, director of Pharmacies and Laboratories at the Ministry of Health, says that the ministry is carrying out trials of the products before their marketing can be authorised.

Coca producers have also been working together with physicians and pharmacists to study the possibility of industrialising coca for various purposes, taking advantage of the different components of the coca leaf.

Many Bolivian peasants are convinced that the only solution to avoid having the surplus of coca leaves end up in the manufacture of illegal drugs is the industrialisation of coca for medicinal and other purposes.

"There is no other crop that is so resistant to drought and pest, yields four crops a year and provides enough income to ensure the livelihood of thousands of Bolivian families," says Prudencio Ticona.

However, the Bolivian government is moving in a different direction: eradication of coca cultivation and substitution of new crops for coca.

In July 1988 the government issued a new law to regulate and reduce the production of coca. The law, staunchly opposed by growers and some political parties, establishes the areas where coca can be legally cultivated, as well as those where coca production has been made illegal. It also imposes what is defined as "voluntary" crop substitution, with the threat that, if peasants refuse to substitute other crops for coca, they will be forced to do

so.

The Bolivian government claims the law shows its political will to collaborate with the international community in fighting drug trafficking.

The Minister of Peasant Affairs and Agriculture, Guillermo Justiniano, has said that the law is an attempt to prevent peasants from moving further towards cocaine manufacturing. "We cannot permit Bolivian peasants to be massively involved in the production of cocaine. That would be the recipe for social disaster."

But he also recognises that "a major problem with crop substitution is the lack of markets for new products, an issue that we still have to discuss with industrialised nations."

The U.S. Agency for International Development is one of the organisations sponsoring crop substitution in Bolivia. Peasants have been encouraged to grow pineapples instead of coca. But in the neighbouring market of Argentina, Bolivian pineapples cost three times as much as those imported from South Africa.

Bolivian development experts and some peasant unions say that only crop substitution with products that command competitive prices in the world market as a part of a coherent strategy of rural development would be a viable option, provided that financial resources are available.

According to some statistics, one "load" of coca leaves 135 kilograms is worth \$720. In one year, a hectare planted with coca, which yields four crops annually, produces \$5,760. Considering that the total area cultivated with coca is 60,000 hectares, the annual production is worth \$345 million.

The Bolivian Episcopal Conference opposes the new law on the basis that "it lacks solid justification."

According to the bishops, "the government has not conducted a study of the situation of increasing poverty the country is experiencing today and of the needs of the peasants, 90% of whom live in conditions of extreme deprivation. (Peasants) are also major consumers of coca leaves (because it) helps them to mitigate hunger and exhaustion."

Furthermore, the new legislation has been conceived on the basis of "unsubstantiated promises of external help." But, say the bishops: "We do not see such an avalanche of dollars anywhere" — Panoz

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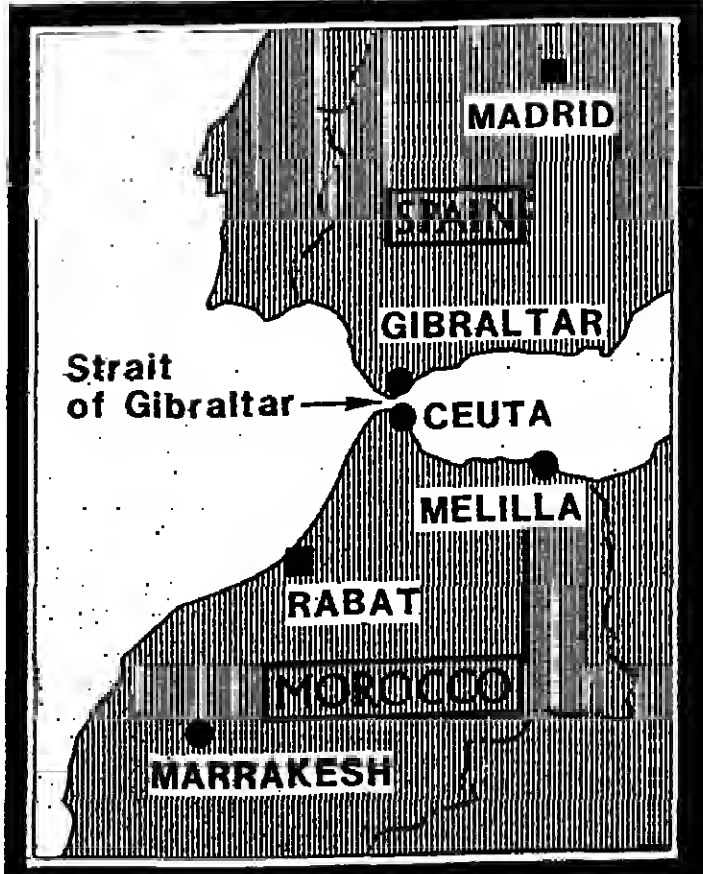
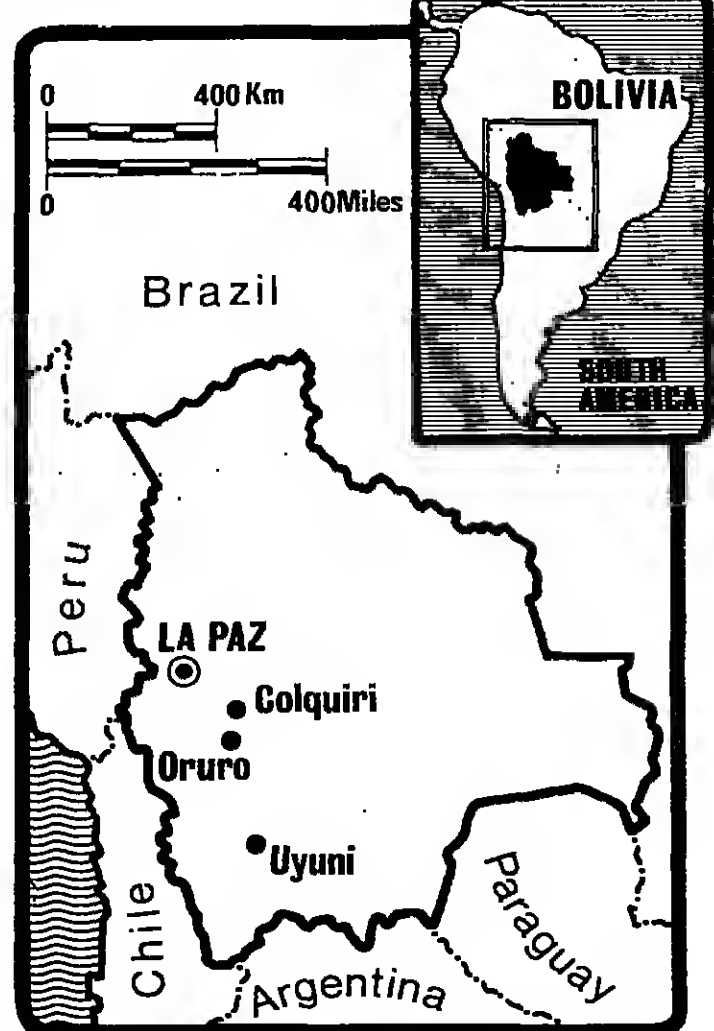
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Gulf Arabs promote private investments

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Arab states are urging private investors be more active in the region's economy in a bid to parcel out the management burden and repatriate billions of dollars invested abroad.

Gulf economists and bankers say scope may be limited, but rising share prices and plans by some governments of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to sell off assets show the privatisation trend is gathering momentum.

A ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war last August and higher risks from fluctuating foreign exchange rates has boosted local investor confidence, paving the way for the return of some of an estimated \$100 billion of GCC private overseas assets.

"Overall, the atmosphere is much more conducive towards privatisation and governments are encouraging this trend," Gulf International Bank (GIB) economist Henry Azzam told Reuters.

"If this mood of confidence continues to grow... it is not far

fetched to think of a situation whereby investors will start to increase their exposure in the domestic market," he said.

The GCC and economic and defence grouping founded in May 1981, comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Bahrain announced last month it had approved plans to sell its stake in some state-run firms, starting with national hotel companies, after its new stock exchange opens on March 30.

At the same time, the island's second-biggest offshore bank, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), said it was studying plans for a public share flotation in Arab markets. ABC is owned by Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Libya.

Saudi officials say they are considering plans to float at least part

of the kingdom's stake in the state-owned oil company Petrotrin, the national carrier Saudia Airlines, and Gulf International Bank, ABC's main rival.

Directors of the regional carrier Gulf Air — owned by the governments of Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Abu Dhabi — said last November they would float shares for half the airline's paid-up capital if it made a profit in 1988, which it did.

Bankers say GCC governments, their budgets still under pressure from lower oil income, have much to gain from privatisation.

"This policy will open new avenues for investors in the country, giving them outlets for cash surpluses which they may be holding now in the form of bank deposits," Hassan Juman, general manager of the National Bank of Bahrain told Reuters.

"It could lead to the return of capital outside the country and should relieve the government of the burden of managing these investments which are really private businesses," he said.

GCC states are still major own-

ers of shares in their respective stock markets. Selling some of these would generate new revenues and increase the supply of shares to fledgling capital markets, economists say.

But the lack of depth to the region's stock markets is in itself a barrier to large-scale privatisation.

"Gulf states cannot privatise in a big way because the mechanism is not yet there," Azzam said.

"They will not just dump shares on the market, they will do it slowly, gradually, so prices will not be depressed. At the moment there is a lot of demand vis-a-vis the supply," he added.

Four new public share flotations in Saudi Arabia last year were heavily oversubscribed. The kingdom's stock market index rose 11.1 per cent during 1988, with share prices of one firm — SABIC petrochemical company — skyrocketing 167 per cent.

Shares in the UAE and Bahrain also performed well with price increases of more than 50 per cent for some stocks.

Kuwait is the only GCC coun-

try which has an actual trading floor at present, but Oman is planning to open an exchange soon after the Bahraini floor begins operating.

An exchange which opened in Saudi Arabia in 1987 was closed after three weeks because of what bankers termed religious objections from the country's conservative religious community.

In another indication of growing investor confidence, businessmen from the six GCC states and Iraq last month finalised plans for a new industrial investment company.

They said the firm — with a paid-in capital of \$100 million — would take over projects approved by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC), a government body.

"There is a great deal of enthusiasm for the project," Abdullah

Al Moajil, GOIC secretary-general said.

"There are enough financial resources in the private sector and it is only a question of building real confidence," he added.

Economists say one snag which may hinder future share flotations is the choice of companies offered to the public.

Officials say they would like to divest from marginal companies which private enterprise could make more profitable, while local businessmen say they want access to better assets.

"People are not going to put their money into risky companies when they are earning 10 per cent on their deposits," said Jamil Ali Ibrahim, head of Bahrain's Ibrahim Group.

"The government should begin by offering really good companies to give the people faith," he told Reuters.

French companies press Paris to ease way for Iraqi contracts

PARIS (R) — French companies hoping for lucrative post-war contracts in Iraq are pressing Paris to ease conditions for rescheduling Baghdad's estimated \$6 billion debt to France.

"If the government does not realise that Iraq is potentially the best market in the Arab World then I must say we are being mismanaged," said Pierre Parisot, managing director of French civil engineering and construction firm Sogeha.

"Certainly the business community is making this point clear to the government," Parisot said after a seminar on post-war reconstruction in Iraq.

His company has completed a

food processing plant in Baghdad, costing \$1 billion.

The stakes have risen even higher and Iraq is wasting no opportunity to tempt French exporters with big contracts now that its eight-year war with Iran is over.

Iraqi ambassador Abdul Rezak Al Hashimi told the seminar his country would remember companies that stayed in the Iraqi market during the war that ended eight months ago.

"The French companies are those who stayed during the war and we want them to take their place in the Iraqi market during the coming years," he said.

Businessmen at the meeting

said the French government credit agency Coface, following a hard line taken by the finance ministry, was refusing further cover for French exporters until Iraq repaid some of its debt.

Most estimates put this at \$6 billion, with debts to French companies accounting for about a third. The rest is owed to government.

Experts from the two countries met in Iraq last month to work out a rescheduling accord. Hashimi said a follow-up meeting in Paris this month had not taken place and talks were continuing on a diplomatic level.

A French businessman told Reuters: "What the Iraqis want now more than anything else is

for France to make a political commitment on its faith in Iraq."

Analysts said France looked certain to yield to this pressure, not least because of its huge debt in Iraq but also because of political uncertainty in Iran.

Paris has halted moves towards closer ties with Tehran which would have opened the reconstruction market there to French firms.

Soviets open trade to all enterprises

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet government expanded the right to trade with foreigners from about 100 ministries and state enterprises to virtually all businesses in the country, the official news agency TASS has reported.

The decree amounts to a major deregulation in a country where contact with foreigners was strictly limited until a few years ago, and even today merits police scrutiny in some locations. The move had been expected since the council of ministers announced in December that it would act to expand exports by spring.

Even cooperatives, the private businesses which share their profits among their members, are permitted to trade.

Foreign currency is still strictly controlled, and businesses that earn convertible currency expect it to be heavily taxed. The rouble is not convertible, and the Soviet Union urgently needs foreign cash to buy Western technology.

Authorities are planning to allow Soviet businesses to buy convertible currency like dollars in a sealed-bid auction, said Alexander Potyomkin of the Foreign Economic Bank. However, thus far he has had trouble finding organisations willing to sell their foreign currency.

Businessmen are watching for this auction with great curiosity, as they expect a rate of six to seven rubles to the dollar would be necessary to draw sellers. The official exchange rate is ten times that, at 62.24 rubles per dollar.

Traders will still operate under considerable uncertainty, however, because TASS said the ministry for external economic relations is being empowered to limit imports and exports of specific goods as it sees fit.

OPEC, non-OPEC ministers to meet in Vienna next week

KUWAIT (R) — OPEC oil ministers will hold a joint meeting in Vienna with representatives of independent oil producers on March 31 to discuss ways of supporting world oil prices, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Tuesday.

KUNA quoted a senior Gulf oil source as saying the goal of the meeting was to support world oil prices at OPEC's target level of \$18 a barrel.

Eight OPEC ministers are already due to hold a meeting of the group's price committee in Vienna on March 29.

KUNA did not name the 11 non-OPEC countries it said would participate, but five independent producers — Egypt, Mex-

ico, Oman, the Soviet Union and Angola — have already announced output cuts to help OPEC stabilise world oil prices at the \$18 level.

KUNA said the non-OPEC producers would be represented by their ministers or other officials.

A Kuwaiti oil official, who asked not to be named, confirmed a joint meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC ministers had been tentatively agreed.

"There is a proposal which has been tentatively accepted by both sides," he said.

But the official could not confirm that all 13 OPEC states would be represented.

"The goal of this joint meeting

is to discuss ways of strengthening the world oil market and to support oil prices to reach the target level of \$18 a barrel," KUNA said.

KUNA said the meeting would discuss whether cooperation should be based on individual initiatives whenever the situation required, or take a more permanent and official form.

The agency quoted its source as saying the meeting would give the market a psychological boost by showing the determination of oil producers to work together.

The eight OPEC states on the group's monitoring committee due to meet next week are Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

China announces tax hikes to limit wide extravagance

BEIJING (AP) — Government leaders Tuesday said they were slapping new taxes on China's thriving private sector and raising taxes on such items as cars and colour televisions in an effort to encourage austerity and limit extravagance.

Top leaders, continuing their theme of economic and political retrenchment, also told China's legislature that they were eliminating loans to private and collectively run enterprises.

They unveiled a number of cost-cutting measures and said all Chinese will be expected to file tax returns. They predicted a \$2 billion deficit this year out of a \$79.2 billion budget.

The speeches by Vice Premier Yao Yilin and Finance Minister Wang Bingqian marked a continuation of the somber line presented Monday by Premier Li Peng in his opening speech to the National People's Congress.

Yao and Wang emphasised the need for centralising China's economy, a contrast with calls during last year's congress for hold

efforts to move the economy away from rigid central planning. The leaders told the 2,768 congress delegates that what China needs now is more control, not more economic freedom.

In his report on the economy, Yao called for huge cuts in construction projects, loans, industrial growth and consumer demand.

He said even successful and necessary projects might have to be curtailed "if they surpass the capabilities of financial and material resources."

The congress is meeting as China faces severe economic troubles. Inflation has hit a record high 36 per cent, sparking panic buying and bank runs. Rising crime affects China's cities and corruption sullies the halls of government.

Many troubles have been blamed on inflation. In September, China began tackling price rises, slowing reforms designed to introduce elements of a market economy into China's state-run system.

Yao announced an end to loans for fledgling private and collec-

tively-owned enterprises. He also said all projects outside the state plan would be halted until July unless they were absolutely necessary.

Wang said these enterprises would be hit with an additional 10 per cent surcharge on their after-tax profits. He also slapped a consumption tax on colour television sets and automobiles and said every Chinese would be required to report his income to the authorities.

Tax evasion in China is rampant and a 1987 law requiring people who make more than 400 yuan (\$81) a month to pay taxes is routinely ignored.

In his speech, Yao called on Chinese to tighten their belts.

"In the past few years, there has been widespread and serious extravagance and waste," he said. "All this has not only seriously conflicted with China's economic level at present, but also tarnished our fine traditions and encouraged reprehensible social conduct."

In his speech on the budget, Yao put China's revenues for 1989 at 285.68 billion yuan (\$77.2 billion) and expenditures at 293.08 billion yuan (\$79.2 billion) for a deficit of 7.1 billion yuan (\$2 billion).

Education and agriculture were slated for the biggest increases.

Monday, Li announced a 15 per cent increase in the education budget, to 37.4 billion yuan (\$10 billion). Agriculture will also get 10 per cent more than last year, reaching 17.306 billion yuan (\$4.7 billion).

In addition, the state will increase its grain purchase price by 18 per cent beginning April 1 in an effort to end a four-year production slump.

Prominent insulin producer increases net profit by 34%

COPENHAGEN (R) — One of the world's top insulin producers has reported a 34 per cent jump in net profits for 1988 but could face a leaner time this year because of the rising cost of raw materials — pig pancreases.

Leading biotechnology firm Novo Industri announced profits of 637 million Danish crowns (\$90 million) signalling it had recovered from the doldrums in 1987 when its profits sagged along with its share in the highly-competitive insulin market.

But stockmarket analysts predicted a sharp rise in the price of pig pancreases, the source of most insulin, would cut into profits this year even though it had no effect on 1988 earnings.

Novo, a world leader in the production of human insulin from genetically engineered yeast and of industrial enzymes, said pre-tax profits jumped 90 per cent in 1988 to 904 million crowns (\$127 million) and sales were up seven

per cent. Novo attributed its good performance partly to stabilising its share of the insulin market, and to winning back market share in the important U.S. starch industry.

In January, Novo announced plans to merge with its smaller rival Nordisk Gentofte. The move will create one of Denmark's biggest manufacturing firms and their combined research and development is aimed at putting on enough corporate muscle to take on giant competi-

tors such as Eli Lilly of the United States.

Stock market analysts have generally welcomed the merger, while warning that even with a combined share of nearly 50 per cent of world insulin sales Novo-Nordisk faces a squeeze on profits in a mature market.

Novo is also looking to new products for future growth, including a detergent enzyme it launched in Japan last year. It says it is the first product of its kind that can remove fat stains from laundry.

Bonn lends Morocco DM65 million

RABAT (R) — West Germany has granted Morocco a 65 million mark (\$35 million) soft loan for agricultural development, officials have said. An agreement signed by West German Economic Cooperation Minister Hans Klein and Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammed Berrada said the loan at 0.75 per cent interest was repayable over 30 years with a 10 year grace period. Technical assistance worth 18 million marks (\$10 million) will also be made available to Morocco, they said.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

IMF signals new lending approach

AMSTERDAM (R) — The head of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Monday the fund would consider extending loans to Third World countries without full assurance of additional financing support from other creditors. IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus's remarks, in his first public statement on U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady's debt plan, signalled a departure from the fund's traditional lending policies. Brady outlined his debt reduction initiative on March 10. "An institution with a preferred creditor status has to be willing to take the lead," Camdessus said at the Inter-American Development Bank's (IADB) annual meeting here. Up to now, the IMF has approved new structural adjustment programme loans for Third World debtors only after receiving assurances of support from other creditors such as international commercial banks.

Strike paralyses Cyprus

NICOSIA (R) — Cyriots left their cars at home in droves Tuesday as a five-day-old strike by petrol stations began to bite. "If Cyriots could, they would use their cars to travel to the toilet," a car-hire owner said, adding that people were now using their cars only when they had no alternative. Petrol station owners locked their pumps at the end of business hours Thursday after rejecting an offer of a five per cent increase in commission on petrol sales. They are demanding a 20 per cent rise. Negotiations between the oil companies, station owners and the ministry of commerce and industry ended in deadlock Monday, according to official sources. Petrol stations in northern Cyprus, a breakaway republic recognised only by Ankara, are not affected.

Kuwait, India sign \$400m oil deal

KUWAIT (AP) — India and Kuwait have signed a \$400 million oil contract, with a 33 per cent increase over 1988 in the volume of India's lifting of Kuwaiti crude oil and refined products, the English-language daily Kuwait Times reported Tuesday. Quoting Indian embassy officials, the paper said that under the contract, Kuwait will be selling India this year one million tons of crude oil and 1.8 million tons of oil products. Making the comparison with last year, the paper said that India bought 700,000 tons of crude oil and 1.2 million tons of petroleum products in 1988 from Kuwait, with a total value of \$300 million.

Black and Decker, Emhart to merge

FARMINGTON, Connecticut (R) — Emhart Corp said Monday it had agreed to be acquired by Black and Decker Corp in a deal that values the company at \$2.8 billion. Emhart has been fighting an unsolicited \$2.4 billion takeover offer from an investment partnership that includes oil heir Gordon Getty. Black and Decker's \$40 a share tender offer for Emhart, a manufacturing concern based here, will begin this week. Emhart Chairman Peter Scott said he backed the Black and Decker offer, which was approved by the boards of both companies.

Turkish steel workers begin strike

ANKARA (R) — More than 24,000 Turkish iron and steel workers will strike Wednesday for higher pay after last-minute talks broke down, a union official said Monday. The strike will affect major factories at Iskenderun on the Mediterranean coast and Karabuk on the Black Sea, he told reporters. The workers want wage increases of up to 440 per cent over two years, to take their average monthly pay to the equivalent of up to \$330 from \$61 now. They have rejected offers of a 138 per cent increase over the same period. "No more talks until the strike begins. But we will consider proposals later on," the official said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, March 21, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	84.8	85.6
U.S. dollar	538.0	542.0	Dutch guilder	254.4	256.9	
Pound Sterling	922.4	931.2	Swedish crown	84.1	84.9	
Deutschemark	287.0	290.0	Italian lira (for 100)	39.1	39.5	
Swiss franc	332.8	336.5	Belgian franc (for 100)	137.1	138.4	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.7138/48	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1935/45	Canadian dollar
	1.8745/52	Deutschemark
	2.1142/52	Dutch guilders
	1.6173/78	Swiss francs
	39.23/26	Belgian francs
	6.3450/500	French francs
	1374/1375	Italian lire
	131.50/60	Japanese yen
	6.3930/80	Swedish crowns
	6.8080/130	Norwegian crowns
	7.3070/120	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	394.00/394.35	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Shares withstood negative pressure from overseas to close marginally off in dull trade, ending above the day's lows as inflation-wary investors turned to gold stocks. The All Ordinaries index closed down 2.0 points at 1,482.3.

TOKYO — The market was closed for a holiday.

HONG KONG — Stocks staged an afternoon comeback to end up despite inflation fears. The Hang Seng index rose 9.7 points to 3,056.43.

ZURICH — Swiss share prices closed steady to higher after a day of active turnover. The all share Swiss index was up 1.8 points to close at 984.7.

LONDON — Share prices were broadly firm after Wall Street's favourable response to a smaller than expected rise in February. By 1551 the FTSE index was 16.5 up at 2,070.1.

NEW YORK — A smaller than expected rise in February pushed stock higher after two days of high losses. The Dow was up 10 at 2272 after rising to 2283. Gainers led decliners by over three-to-one.

SINGAPORE — The stock market ended with widespread gains after buying interest emerged to reverse an earlier softer trend, dealers said.

BOMBAY — Share prices fell for a second day on heavy profit-taking ahead of the three week settlement, brokers said. The market will remain closed Wednesday for a Hindu festival.

FRANKFURT — German shares closed steady to slightly higher in thin Frankfurt trading with mounting worries about U.S. inflation and interest rates. The real-time DAX index closed a scant 0.88 off at 1,303.28.

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Third World countries push for tougher control measures in agreement

Nations clash in toxic waste talks

BASEL (AP) — Officials from 111 countries negotiating a U.N. treaty for controlling international trafficking in dangerous waste sought ways Tuesday to break a deadlock over last-minute African demands for tougher language.

Alain Clerc, a Swiss environmental official with a leading mediating role in the talks, said he believed a consensus could be found in overtime night meetings and the draft convention opened for signing Wednesday as scheduled.

The Africans' moves, which came on the conference's first day Monday, put them at odds with industrialised countries.

Among the stumbling blocks Tuesday was that the 52 African

delegates were divided among themselves over the proposed amendments, Clerc told reporters.

African delegates and a small group of negotiators, including conference President Flavio Cotti, Switzerland's interior minister, struggled to find a procedural solution for handling the draft changes.

Clerc dismissed suggestions that the high-level conference had been called too hastily.

Many African countries as well as all Asian and Latin American nations support the draft treaty, he said.

Hard-line amendments were put forth by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), which in the past has termed waste dumping by industrialised countries a crime against Africa and had called for a complete ban before announcing readiness to negotiate.

One new proposal appears to put the responsibility for managing waste "in an environmentally sound manner" only on countries producing it.

Other suggested amendments would strengthen monitoring of the treaty, including a role for the

OAU.

The conference, which drew 50 ministers, was originally intended to lead to quick approval of the final treaty draft.

Experts completed the 51-page text only Monday, delaying the start of the conference. A treaty annex lists categories of dangerous substances and other technical details.

Mali's Environment Minister Morifing Kone, speaking for the OAU, charged Monday that industrialised countries continue to treat Africa as a dumping ground for dangerous wastes.

In a message read out at the opening session, he said that Africa could not sign a convention "unless we are sure our

interests are safeguarded."

Some African countries are believed to be holding out for a ban on dangerous shipments from industrialised to developing countries.

Greenpeace, the international environmental group, Monday renewed its criticism of the treaty's lack of a ban.

A Greenpeace statement called the proposed convention weak noting it did not include radioactive wastes and allowed signatory countries to have waste trade pacts with non-signatories.

The draft treaty formally gives all countries the right to refuse imports of hazardous wastes and pledges exporters to provide full details of all intended shipments.

Hawke publicly, tearfully bares his soul

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke, with tears in his eyes, has confessed to being unfaithful to his wife, Hazel.

Hawke's admission in a pre-recorded television interview, made available to Reuters, is to be broadcast by the commercial Channel Seven network Tuesday night.

"You have also been accused of being a womaniser. What do they mean by womaniser," the interviewer asked.

"They mean I was unfaithful to my wife," the prime minister said.

"Is that true?" he was asked.

"Yes," Hawke said, but added that his infidelity had stopped.

"She understood that it was

part of a pretty volatile, exuberant character, and she knew my love for her had never changed," said the 58-year-old prime minister, who was a hard-drinking trade union chief in his younger days.

"I have always loved Hazel and always will," he said. Hawke is seeking an unprecedented fourth term of national leadership for his Labour Party in elections expected later this year.

He and Hazel, who recently underwent a facelift operation, started going out together at the age of 17, more than 40 years ago. "I guess there are not many women who would have put up with me all that time," Hawke said.

It was not the first time Hawke publicly bared his soul

since he became prime minister six years ago.

In 1984, he broke down and cried during a televised news conference about drug abuse. Mrs. Hawke later revealed their daughter and son-in-law had been heroin addicts.

Hawke said his infidelity, like his heavy drinking, was now behind him.

He said he had never been an alcoholic in the sense that he could not work, but said it came upon him that he had a drinking problem "one night when I was having a wee as a matter of fact, not a time I normally get into profound things."

"But it was getting to the stage where at the end of the day I was looking forward too

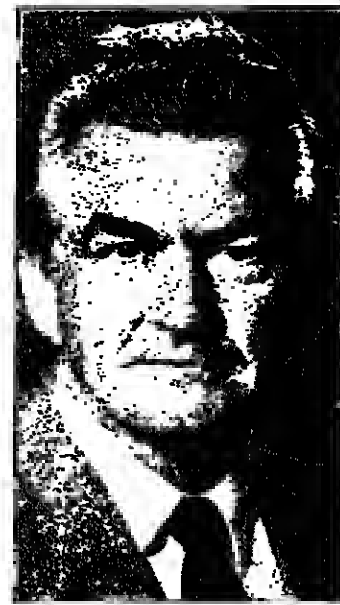
much to a drink. I thought that was pretty unattractive."

Hawke gave up alcohol around the time he entered parliament in 1980.

Mrs. Hawke, who has been married to Hawke for 33 years, has not commented on her husband's revelations. They have three children.

Hawke said he supported his wife's decision to have the facelift operation, which made headline news in the Australian press. "She is remarkably well preserved without the operation," he said.

Some of his political opponents have dismissed Hawke's latest confessions as a political gimmick. Opposition leader John Howard refused to comment.



Bob Hawke

Chernobyl cloud still looms large

MOSCOW (AP) — Almost a quarter-million Soviets are living on land so contaminated by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster that they must receive special food supplies to avoid overexposure to radiation, Pravda said Monday.

The Communist Party daily printed maps showing contaminated areas of Byelorussia, the Ukraine and the Russian republics, in response to readers' complaints that they still did not have full information about the level of contamination almost three years after the accident.

On April 26, 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power station sent a radioactive cloud over much of Europe. At least 31 people died. Pravda also printed a commentary by science Editor V. Gubarev, who criticised officials for trying to duck public concern

about the safety of nuclear power.

"Yes, it is impossible to get around using nuclear power stations, however, why then are they proposed for heavily populated or seismic zones?" Gubarev asked. "Why is the quality of construction so low, and why does so much defective equipment arrive at nuclear plants? And, finally, what is the course of this fear before a public which rightly demands a wide debate of every proposed nuclear power station?"

Yuri Izrael, chairman of the State Committee for Hydrometeorology, said that with decontamination efforts and a supply of food brought into the area, those on the lands contaminated by cesium 137 can live safely without exceeding radiation limits set by the government.



Boris Yeltsin

Newspaper gives Yeltsin coverage

MOSCOW (R) — The Moscow Communist Party newspaper, accused of bias against Kremlin rebel Boris Yeltsin, printed his election programme Tuesday alongside that of his officially-backed opponent.

Yeltsin, under investigation for allegedly deviating from the party line during the campaign, was scheduled to meet workers at Moscow's Zil car plant, managed by his opponent in next Sunday's voting, Yevgeny Brakov.

Leading scientists were, meanwhile, electing the representatives of the Academy of Sciences to the Soviet parliament amid criticism that reform-minded academics had been excluded from the ballot.

Human Rights Activist Andrei Sakharov had pleaded Monday for a second vote.

Moskovskaya Pravda, criticised by Yeltsin's supporters, prominently displayed his programme side by side with Brakov's.

It included Yeltsin's campaign call for an end to privileges for party elite such as special food stores, medical care and limousines.

But two of the most sensitive points of his campaign were omitted — a call for a multi-party system to be discussed in the Soviet press and a demand for the Communist Party to be subject to parliamentary control.

His stand on those issues is under investigation by a commission set up by the party Central Committee last week to determine whether Yeltsin has strayed from the party line.

Yeltsin, ousted as Moscow party chief in 1987 for saying reforms were proceeding too slowly, has accused the Moscow party of throwing its weight behind Brakov in the contest for the all-Moscow seat.

Yeltsin told a meeting Monday that the Moscow party committee and higher officials were increasing pressure to prevent him from winning in the election — the first offering Soviet voters a choice of candidates.

An unprecedented march through the centre of the capital at the weekend denounced both the investigation into Yeltsin and Moskovskaya Pravda, which had previously ignored his campaign.

Mom disowns star of Britain scandal

NEW DELHI (R) — The mother of an Indian woman at the centre of a British political sex scandal said she was ashamed of her daughter but did not believe she was a call girl, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Monday.

Shakuntala Singh Chaudhary said the family had thrown out Pamela Bordes seven years ago and told her she had once beaten her daughter with a chain because of her wayward habits. "She might have links with smugglers and top leaders, but she cannot be a call girl," Chaudhary said of the 27-year-old Pamela, a former beauty queen whose links with British parliamentarians, newspaper editors and others have featured prominently in the British press for the past week.

"If what the newspapers say about my daughter is true then the family is all for her being punished according to the law. I feel so ashamed of the scandal," Chaudhary said.



Pamela Bordes is an ex-beauty queen

"In a way she is dead for us." British newspapers have alleged Pamela Bordes combined her work as researcher at the House of Commons with a career as a high-class call girl — an allegation she has denied.

Some newspapers have also alleged she had links with a top Libyan official. Britain broke diplomatic relations with Libya in 1984 after a gunman, firing from the Libyan mission in London, killed a policeman.

Pamela Singh Chaudhary grew up in a middle class family in northern India as Pamela Singh Chaudhary. Her father, an army major, was killed in the India-China border war in 1962 when Pamela was two months old.

Mother-daughter relations became strained when she entered a prestigious women's college in New Delhi and began living a fast life with money she made as a model, Chaudhary said in her luxury home in suburban New Delhi.

Police reject IRA mole idea in killings

DUBLIN (R) — British and Irish police on Tuesday rejected speculation that an information tip-off from Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas who killed two top Northern Ireland policemen on an isolated border road.

Detectives on both sides of the border fear the officers, the most senior policemen killed in Northern Ireland's 20-year-old conflict, may have been lured in their unmarked car or police radios could have been bugged.

The apparent security leak was a major blow in the two forces' joint fight against IRA guerrillas who are battling to oust Britain from the north.

But both Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey and Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Tom King stressed that the double shooting would not stifle cross-border cooperation.

The two officers drove south on Monday for an impromptu meeting in Dundalk with Irish police officers to discuss a spate of recent IRA bomb attacks on the Dublin-Belfast rail line.

"Even the Garda (Irish police) don't know what way they would be going. There were no bombs, so it wasn't prepared before-

hand," a Northern Ireland police spokesman said.

"The IRA must have been using their radios and they set up the attack after seeing the men drive into Dundalk police station."

Patrick McCullough, President of Northern Ireland's Superintendents Association, said there was not "A shred of evidence" that an IRA mole had set up the killings.

"We have the greatest confidence in our own force and indeed in the forces of the Republic of Ireland," he said in a television interview.

Senior Irish police officers also dismissed suggestions of a "mole" within their ranks. Their inquiry may focus on the IRA possibly penetrating radio communication links or setting up a sophisticated intelligence network for tailing police.

Haughey condemned the killings. "Every possible cooperation will be extended to the Northern authorities to ensure that those responsible are apprehended and brought to justice," he said in a statement.

King said the attack was an IRA bid to undermine Anglo-Irish cooperation.

Pan Am crash stirs controversy in London

LONDON (R) — Britain's opposition Labour Party accused the government Monday of covering up errors in the way it handled warnings to airlines before a Pan Am jet blew up over Scotland.

Labour Transport spokesman John Prescott was addressing parliament after speaker Bernard Weatherill, who presides over sittings in the House of Commons, refused to grant time for an emergency debate on the way warnings were handled.

"The Commons will not tolerate the denial of a debate on the importance of airport security," Prescott said. "If not given, it will only feed the view that a cover-up is now being conducted by the government."

Labour has accused Transport Secretary Paul Channon of failing to pass on to airlines detailed intelligence warnings about a bomb hidden in a radio-cassette player until after the Lockerbie disaster, in which 270 people were killed.

The Pan Boeing 747, flying from London to New York, was blown up Dec. 21 over the Scottish town of Lockerbie by plastic explosive concealed in a radio-cassette recorder.

A Transport Department spokesman said Sunday that a warning letter dated Dec. 19 was not posted until the new year because accompanying colour photographs of a suspect radio-cassette had to be prepared.

Pan Am has said the letter did not arrive until Jan. 17. The disclosure about when the letter was dispatched fired fresh opposition demands for a statement by Channon or a public inquiry. Channon has minimised

the importance of the letter in question, saying it merely elaborated on a previous warning.

Channon has said he cannot disclose certain details about the crash for security reasons.

Sources close to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said she had complete confidence in Channon and was disgusted at suggestions he had not acted properly.

The transport secretary pulled out of a London conference on airport congestion at short notice Monday due to what his office said was "pressure of work."

The department sent a telex message suggesting further steps to tighten airport security.

"In view of the high and continuing risk from electronic devices, the department has today by telex issued a further reminder to airports and airlines, drawing attention to the guidance issued earlier and suggesting some further steps that should be taken," a spokesman said.

He said the department was told that more bombs of the same type could be in circulation. He declined to comment on a report saying West German police had said up to three more cassette-recorder bombs had been built.

The London Evening Standard newspaper linked the new warning to West German police's discovery last October of a Toshiba cassette player packed with Semtex plastic explosive and linked to a detonator designed to explode at high altitude.

In Washington, a congressional committee report, prompted by the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, said government warnings to airlines were sometimes dangerously inaccurate.



Alfredo Cristiani of the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the expected winner of Sunday's presidential elections.

Washington praises El Salvador election

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States Monday praised El Salvador's presidential election and said it would support the winner, but at least 250 people were arrested in protests in U.S. cities against the vote and U.S. policy in the Central American nation.

Official results released Monday indicated that businessman Alfredo Cristiani of the extreme rightist Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) was set to become the next Salvadoran president, with 53 per cent of the vote in Sunday's violence-plagued poll.

"These elections are the most recent manifestation of the Salvadoran people's desire for a durable democratic system," State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters.

"The leader of the U.S. observer delegation, Senator (Mitch) McConnell (Republican of Kentucky), characterised the election as free and fair... despite FMLN (guerrilla) intimidation, we understand that some 55 to 60 per cent of registered voters turned out. The Salvadoran people braved violence and terror... to participate."

Redman said the United States would support the winner because the election was democratic, but warned U.S. ties to the new government would depend on its human rights performance and respect for democracy.

He said President Jose Napoleon Duarte had made progress in those areas.

Duarte, currently undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer, maintained close ties with

Washington, building bipartisan U.S. congressional support for his policies and attracting more than \$1 million a day of U.S. aid to El Salvador, the second highest per capita figure after Israel.

"We continue to press for democracy and human rights improvements in that country and we'll just have to wait and see what kind of actions we get from the new government," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said in a separate briefing.

ARENA has been linked in the past with death squad killings of political opponents.

Sunday's elections were overshadowed by clashes between rebels and security forces and the killings of three journalists. The military reported 38 people killed and the rebels said they killed or wounded 150 government troops. Asked about reports that much of the violence was caused by the Salvadoran military, Fitzwater said: "Most of the violence that we have seen documented is from the left, from the guerrilla factions."

At least 250 people were arrested in Washington, New York and San Francisco in Monday's protests against U.S. aid to El Salvador and an election process they asserted was unfair.

Nine policemen were injured and 122 people arrested in New York where demonstrators, some dressed as Salvadoran "death squad" members carrying out mock executions, blocked entrances to a federal office building.

Another 80 were arrested by police in riot gear at the San Francisco federal building.

Korean bomber wants punishment

SEOUL (AP) — A confessed North Korean agent told a court Tuesday she wanted to be punished for planting a bomb that destroyed a South Korean airliner in 1987, killing all 115 people on board.

Kim Hyon-Hui said during the second hearing at the Seoul district court on her case that she did not believe she had any right to a defence and that she would tell the court everything. Kim, who could face the death sentence, said she hoped her death would ease the suffering of the victim's relatives.

"It would be fortunate if my death would help reduce their sorrow and pain," she said in a hushed voice.

Hundreds of riot police and security agents ringed the court to prevent protests by angry relatives of the victims or a possible North Korean attack. About 10 relatives who tried to force their way into the court scuffled with police.

About 30 relatives who were allowed into the courtroom yelled threats and insults at Kim and the hearing was slowed by frequent interruptions. Weeping relatives shouted obscenities and one woman hurled a shoe that missed Kim by several metres.

"Let's kill her," yelled a distraught relative.

The hearing was interrupted several times by the outbursts until about 25 of the relatives marched out in protest.

Prosecutors are expected to ask for the death sentence, but government officials have indicated that Kim will be pardoned because they say she was duped by North Korea and has repented.

Kim's confession and the trial has been a major propaganda victory for South Korea in its struggle with the communist North for supremacy on the divided Korean peninsula.

Kim repeated at the first court hearing March 7 her earlier confession that she planted a bomb on the Korean Air Boeing 707 that disappeared Nov. 29, 1987, over the Andaman Sea near the coast of Burma on a flight from Iraq to Seoul. No survivors were found.

In reply to a question Tuesday,



Kim Hyon-Hui

Kim said she acted automatically when she placed the bomb on the plane and had no second thought about her action. "I did what I was trained to do," she said.

Kim has said she was acting on the orders of top North Korean leaders who hoped to sabotage the 1988 Olympic games held in Seoul.

In reply to questions, Kim said she had confessed after being brought to South Korea and realising she had been duped about true conditions in the South. She described the North as hellish police state.

In a confession on South Korean television in January 1988, Kim said she and her elderly companion flew on the flight from Baghdad to Abu Dhabi where they got off. She said they left a powerful bomb on the plane disguised as a radio and a bottle of liquor.

COLUMN

'Last Emperor' wins British film award

LONDON (R) — "The Last Emperor" by Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci gained top honours at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards Sunday. The movie about Pu Yi's fall from emperor to gardener was named best film. Luis Malle was voted best director for his "An Revoir les Enfants," an account of his childhood Jewish friends during the Nazi occupation of France. The offbeat comedy "A Fish Called Wanda" picked up two British film "Oscars." John Cleese was voted best actor and co-star Michael Palin best supporting actor. Maggie Smith was judged best actress for her role as the unhappy spinster in "The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne."

Traffic jams are an ancient problem

ROME (ANSA) — Anyone who thinks that traffic and pollution are exclusively modern age phenomena will have to think again. In Rome in the first century B.C. heavy waggons and carts clogged the streets, carriages clattered and two-horse chariots charged at such a speed that they threatened the lives of pedestrians. Ancient Romans were experts in dealing with traffic. In the course of history they built 140 thousand kilometres of roads and were not upset in the slightest when Julius Caesar issued the "Lex Julia Municipalis" in 45 B.C. when the traffic problem had become critical. It was the first comprehensive attempt to regulate the flow of road traffic. Since heavy transport carts obstructed the way and made too much noise they were forbidden within the city from dawn to dusk. The amount of traffic reached such proportions and became so chaotic that it was decided that no ladies, not even those from high ranking patrician families, were allowed to use carriages. In other words the era of access permits for the city centre dates far back. The only categories allowed to enter the city in a two-wheeled or four-wheeled vehicle were the vestal virgins and the Flamen priests, custodians of the sacred fire, the "Rex Sacrorum", the high priest who led all ceremonies and processions, magistrates and the most important military commanders.

Bergamot, artichoke for beauty

ROME (ANSA) — The interest of cosmetic science for natural products has focused attention on two typical Mediterranean plants which abound in Italy: The Bergamot and the Artichoke. The bergamot, a name given to a small tree of the rue family which has flourished in Italy from the beginning of the 19th century, grows mainly along the Ionian coastline, while the artichoke is reaped in some areas of the south as many as four times a year. Both crops have reached a new popularity thanks to their use in natural cosmetics. Interest in the environment and ecology has spread to the cosmetics industry, which is enthusiastically trying to make use of natural products in creams, potions and lotions meant to cure, repair and prevent damages to the bodies and faces of clients. The artichoke, one of the most frequently used ingredients in natural cosmetics, derives its botanical name "Cynara" from a Greek nymphetta. The nymph, beautiful but capricious, drove Zeus, father of the gods, to turn her into a thorny but useful plant. In fact, the leaves and stalk of the artichoke are extremely tasty, and can also be used to keep the skin velvety and hair shiny.

The weather at major world capitals & cities

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	02	36	07 45 Cloudy
ATHENS	09	48	21 70 Cloudy
BANGKOK	17	83	23 70 Clear
BANGKOK	24	75	32 81 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	18	65	57 77 Clear
CAIRO	13	55	28 82 Clear
CHICAGO	-01	31	38 88 Clear
COPENHAGEN	04	38	10 50 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	06	43	13 88 Rain
GENEVA	02	29	13 88 Clear
HONG KONG	15	84	21 70 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	06	43	18 81 Clear
LONDON	03	37	10 80 Rain
LOS ANGELES	13	58	88 83 Clear
MADRID	02	35	14 57 Clear
MECCA	17	83	33 91 Clear
MIAMI	22	72	26 77 Cloudy
MONTREAL	-10	14	00 52 Cloudy
MOSCOW	-01	30	04 39 Clear
NEW DELHI	18	84	31 88 Clear
NEW YORK	01	30	08 42 Cloudy
PARIS	05	41	11 52 Cloudy
ROME	06	46	21 70 Cloudy
SEOUL	06	43	14 57 Clear

John H. H. H.